

April 23, 2020

NEWS AND NOTES FROM GRACE & WESLEY



Always New Life; Always New Opportunity

Romans 6:4 “Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

I love all of the seasons, which is one of the reasons I have always gravitated back toward the Midwest. Yes, the humid, stifling heat of July and August wears on me after a while, and yes, you may hear me bemoaning the cold and snow in late January into February; but, the great thing about the seasons is...there is always another one on the way! There is always something to look forward to when you live in an area of multiple seasons.

While each changing season provides its own charm, I am particularly fond of spring. As the snow begins to melt, I love to experience how excited everybody is to get outside on those first 50 degree days. Spring provides a season of new opportunity to get into shape and enjoy the natural world once again. Even those dreary, rainy spring days possess a certain appeal because the water washes away the salt and sand and spurs new life in our yards. I am extremely thankful that this pandemic and isolation did not occur in the throes of winter. Can you imagine if we were unable to open the windows or be outside because of snowstorms during this time?

When I think about new life, I of course think about what it was like to bring my children into the world. I remember being amazed and amused at the faces my sons would make when they would experience new sensations. They would become enthralled when we would turn on a light. Their eyes would grow large when I would recite basic consonant and vowel sounds as I held them. And even to this day, I love how excited my boys get when a new experience presents itself. Every moment of a child's new life is an opportunity for them to learn and grow.

If only we all could be so aware of the abundance of newness and opportunities God provides for us each and every day, even during strange and difficult times such as these. Paul writes in Romans 6 that Christ rose from the dead **so that we might walk in the newness of life**. Many of us, including me, spend far too many of our days walking as though we have seen and heard everything and have little further to discover about ourselves, the world, or God.

Perhaps, after being quarantined for over a month now, many of us feel as though we are stuck in a rut. Maybe we are tired of the monotonous routine we have developed during this period of time. I believe God is inviting us to walk in such a way—especially during this time—that we appreciate the newness and opportunity we take for granted most of our adult lives.

So, I encourage all of us to take time this month to appreciate the beauty of the spring. Enjoy the return of birds singing and the grass turning. Enjoy the lengthening daylight hours and use the extra time to love and serve others and tend to your faith. Reach out via phone or the internet to connect with relatives or church family members you haven't seen for a while now. Take the time to thank God for newness of life that springs forth this time of year, and, most of all, thank God for the newness of life that is growing in you, regardless of age, because Jesus Christ rose from the dead!

I am thinking about you all and I miss seeing you on a weekly basis. I am and will continue praying for you and encourage you not to hesitate to call if you need anything or just want to talk. God bless you all.

With love, in the Name of Christ,

Pastor Craig Luttrell



Although worship services and all activities are still cancelled, Pastor Craig is livestreaming a condensed worship service at 9:30am on Sunday mornings. It can be seen on the Wesley Facebook page. (to find Wesley on Facebook, go to MC Wesley United Methodist Church) If you do not know how this works, please feel free to contact me.

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://mcqumchurch.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.

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 strtmn@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

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.

You are encouraged 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.)

**Wesley Family
Outreach Ministry** **No cost!
No hassles!**

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



May/June Upper Rooms are now available at Wesley!

We have a table set up in the parking lot entryway so that you may pick up a current issue anytime a staff member is at the church to have the outer doors unlocked or you can let us know when you will be here and we will make every effort to accommodate your schedule.



If you were unable to pick up your current Wesley offering envelopes before the quarantine began, those will also be available for pick-up on the table inside the parking lot entryway.



Memorial Day is Monday, May 25



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10

"There is only one pretty child in the world, and every mother has it."
Chinese Proverb

"Sweater, n.: garment worn by child when its mother is feeling chilly."
Ambrose Bierce

"If evolution really works, how come mothers have only two hands?"
Milton Berle

"When your mother asks, 'Do you want a piece of advice?' it is a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway."
Erma Bombeck

"My mother's menu consisted of two choices: Take it or leave it."
Buddy Hackett

"I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them."
Phyllis Diller

"People who say they sleep like a baby usually don't have one."
Leo J. Burke

"When my kids become wild and unruly, I use a nice, safe playpen. When they're finished, I climb out."
Erma Bombeck

"A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie."
Tenneva Jordan

"A mother understands what a child does not say." —
Jewish proverb

"A mother's hug lasts long after she lets go." —Unknown

"I love to play hide and seek with my kid, but some days my goal is to find a hiding place where he can't find me until after high school."
Anon

"It's not easy being a mother. If it were, fathers would do it."
—The Golden Girls



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.)

Pastor Craig, Connie Wilcox (Rob Wilcox's mother), West Campus

Condolences: ...to the friends and family of Margaret Motter who passed away on 3/27...Linda Beek who passed away on 4/16...former Wesley pastor Myron Brockmeyer who passed away on 4/6...former Wesley choir director Steve Erickson who passed away on 4/9...former Wesley member, Lelia Bates who passed away on 4/13...to Lora Holland on the loss of her brother, Howard Lohr.

Thank You

A BIG thank you to Katie Koopman for gathering and distributing Sunday School materials and preparing a craft for the children. We are lucky to have her energy and motivation at this time.



Volunteers Needed for Meals on Wheels!

Wesley UMC is in charge of delivering Meals on Wheels May 4-8. We have two routes this time, so will need two separate delivery people. If you have the time and want to deliver, please give JoAnn Gerbig a call at 424-5212. Thank you in advance for your continued help on this very important delivery service for the elderly. If you want to deliver and need a face mask made for you, please let me know and I will make a mask so you will feel comfortable delivering.



May

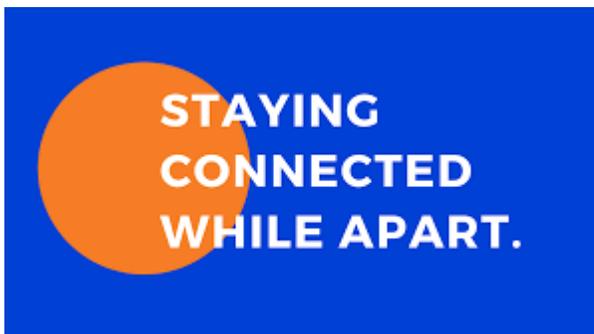
- 3 Jerry Als
- 4 Marcia Butcher, Dawn Ballantyne
- 5 Rhonda Halfpop, Maxine Enfield
- 6 Jerry Stokesbary
- 7 Nancy Lloyd
- 12 Marilyn Hamand, Jennifer Gogerty
- 13 Garrett Broers, Brody Whitesell
- 14 Mark Bull, Tom Trunkhill
- 15 *Jerry & Kathy Hirsch, Randy & Laura Rinnels*
- 16 Beverly Humphrey
- 17 Sandra Paulsen
- 19 Marcia Weitzel
- 20 Jerry Hirsch, Fifi Pongo
- 23 Christopher Ballantyne
- 25 Kennedee Halligan, *Don & Judy Kamps*
- 27 *Ida Rhine, Ralph & Marilyn Hamand*
- 28 Laura Rinnels
- 31 *Art & Carol Ades*

Wesley Financial Report

- 3/27: \$1,705
- 4/3: \$5250
- 4/10: \$5037
- 4/17: \$2,280



Wesley Spring Rummage Sale: CANCELLED



During this time of isolation, we feel that it is important for Wesley members to stay in touch with each other and so we are going to be making phone calls to check in and see how everyone is doing, if they need groceries or anything else or just need someone to talk to.

If you would like to help make phone calls while you are isolating at home, please let Patty know and she will send you a sheet of names and phone numbers. Just leave a message on the church phone (423-6549) or e-mail patty@mcwesley.org.

Wesley's Year of Giving Back May 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..."

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NRSV)

Greetings from Our Church Family

Greetings to our church family. We hope and pray that you are all doing well during this challenging time for our country and the world. Merle and I have enjoyed many homemade desserts during this time of social distancing, therefore- we take many walks during the day. Our spring work has began at Central Gardens of North Iowa. Merle is now on the board, a position that he has enjoyed. We miss attending Saturday evening services and supper afterwards at Wendy's. God bless you and be safe.

Merle and Jules Tiedemann

Tristan has been working at Fareway and studying at home and I have been working from home, which is normal for me as I have worked from home since 2012, so we are doing well aside from missing friends and senior year activities. We enjoy seeing the church family on Facebook each Sunday watching the live-streamed sermon.

Katie & Tristan Koopman

Hello Wesley members! Doug and I have returned from spending the winter in Arizona. While I am sad to not be in church, both in Arizona and in Mason City, I appreciate the contact I have had through emails and seeing about friend's lives on Facebook. I also appreciate all of Pastor Craig's efforts to keep us connected to our church through his emails and services. Hope to be back in church soon.

Donna & Doug Tiedeman

Hello from Larry and Karen Howe

Spending time at home involves reading, watching TV/Movies, as well as getting some spring cleaning done indoors. As the weather warms up, we'll be doing some yard work/spring cleaning outdoors. We also go for walks on those nice days to stay active. Enjoy watching the worship services online.

Prayers to my Dad and Mom (Kenneth and Ruth Benjegerdes) whom I can only see through a window at the Manly Specialty Care Nursing Home. Everyone stay safe. Hope to see you all soon.

Nothing has changed with me since COVID-19 -- I have not lost one daycare child as they are evidently all essential workers. Business as usual here.

Joann Gerbig

We are so grateful for the warm weather that allowed us to hike with our grandkids, keeping social distance, of course. What a great time of the year to hike before the mosquitoes come out. My daughters were worried about their kids exposing us to Covid-19. No hugs but I did get warned about getting too close! We are also doing garden preparations.

My niece, Jami, returned from working in New Zealand. She isolated for 14 days and is now staying with my mom. It's a win/win for both of them.

Tim & Diane Walrod

I'm doing well, but I really miss my church and everybody.

Love to all, *Kae Colville*

We got to come home April 9-15, but due to coronavirus we were not to see anyone. Dear Charlotte Ring sends us cards to my wife from the church. I think it's nice when someone cares. My wife is getting better. Thank God for that.

Jerry & Sherri Clemons

Greetings from Our Church Family

Hello Church Family - we miss all of you - hope to see you soon. We have been able to continue working at our sign business, along with doing some home projects.
Blessings, *Dean & Jeannie Johnson*

Hello Grace family! Mom and I have been staying home as much as possible! We miss the "normal" Sunday church gatherings and being able to greet you in person. Looking forward to the day we can sit in those nice new chairs, 3rd row on the right, and look around and see everyone in their respective seats ☺. We attend the online services, and are very thankful for technology that provides the opportunity to remain connected! The VIRUS tends to make us a bit anxious at times, especially when watch too much TV ☹. Here's our verse of the month:

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7)
See you soon. Love, *Cookie & Val*



May

3	Raymond Lindloff
5	Gracelynn Gobeli
6	Jack Mueller, Jackson Gobeli, <i>Larry & Gail Behrends</i>
8	Charlie Thrams
11	Jess Hamilton
13	Maura Barrett
17	<i>Troy & Brandi Gobeli</i>
22	Brena Hamilton
24	Daryl Miller
29	Marge Ebel

Don't Forget About Grace Cares!!!

While it may seem that the world has come to a stop, the number of people needing help continues to grow. Since we have not been able to meet at the church, we have not had our usual "Holy Pail" offerings that Grace Cares uses to help meet our mission goals.

April's offering would have supported the cleaning bucket mission and May's Holy Pail is designated to help support the Women at the Well congregation.

If you are able to help support these and the other missions of Grace Cares, please note "Grace Cares" on the memo line of your check...and THANK YOU!



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
May 21, 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



