

July 23, 2020

NEWS AND NOTES FROM GRACE & WESLEY



Hebrews 12:1-2 *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith...”*

As most of you know, last November I ran my 2nd half marathon. I ran my first half marathon with Elizabeth back in 2014; however, I succumbed to exhaustion at mile eight and had to walk two miles before I could get myself running again. My goal for my second half marathon, therefore, was to complete all 13.1 miles without walking.

During my second attempt, the first 8 miles went much better than the first time around. The fact that I had learned to better pace myself, coupled with the firm goal I had set for myself, made the first leg of the race much more manageable than the first time around. Although those eight miles were still challenging, I felt confident I would be able to finish the race.

By mile ten, however, I started to have my doubts. I began having the same empty stomach, light-headed feeling I had experienced at mile eight back in 2014. I could also tell at that point that I was likely going to lose several toenails based on the pain and throbbing in my feet. I began to question whether or not I had done enough training. I began to feel immense frustration. I distinctly remember arguing with myself about whether or not it would be that big of a deal if I just walked for a bit and tried again at some future date.

Ultimately, the goal I had set for myself won out. I still don't know how I convinced my legs to keep moving; however, I made it those last three miles without walking. When I crossed the finish line, after a few minutes of making sure I wasn't going to throw up, I felt an enormous sense of relief and joy wash over me, having accomplished the goal I had set for myself.

At this point in time, many of us likely feel like I did at mile 10. After five months of this pandemic and the onslaught of dire media coverage on a daily basis, many of us are tired and frustrated and ready to be done with it. As we watch the numbers in our county rise and as we hear about the rising death toll, we might be ready to succumb to fear. After months of putting on uncomfortable masks and avoiding activities we enjoy, we might be ready to throw caution to the wind and simply resign to the inevitable.

I would invite all of us to consider the passage from Hebrews. Our journey of faith in this lifetime is not meant to be easy. It requires perseverance and longevity. This pandemic is but a season—a relatively short leg of the race in the grand scheme of things. Let all of us, then, keep our goal firmly in mind and keep on running. Even if our legs feel like they can't go any further; even if we feel faint from exhaustion; even if our toenails are beginning to bleed; let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, and continue serving him faithfully.

Pastor Craig Luttrell

Fall Reopening



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. **If you are interested in attending a Saturday service at Wesley at 5:00 PM, you MUST CALL THE OFFICE in advance so we make sure we do not exceed the 50-person limit.**)

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 schedule:

9:00am Worship @ Wesley/Facebook Livestream Service

10:30 Worship @ Grace

More details will follow between now and September 13th.

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://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.*

Pastor Craig is continuing to livestream the worship service at 9:30am on Sunday mornings. (Starting Sept. 13th it will be at 9:00 AM) 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://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.

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. (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

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.)



All children ages 5-11
are invited to
First United Methodist's "At-Home VBS"
Sunday, August 2—Thursday, August 6th
6:00 PM Drive-In Opening
Church Parking Lot
(Take home kits provided at drive in.)



For information call Lisa Bailey
641-423-4905
or visit Facebook.

Registration form on Facebook or at the church.



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.)



August

Condolences: ...to the friends and family of Helen Root who passed away on July 7 and to Jed Vorba on the loss of his father.

Thank You

Thank you to the Wesley Methodist Women for all the nice things they do for me. A special thank you to Charlotte Ring for all the phone calls.

Phyliss Preftakes

Thanks for all your praying for me. It is helping. God bless all of you. Acts 3:19

Sherri Clemons

Thank you to the UMW for the wonderful surprise of the 4th of July bag. It touches my heart to be remembered and I will be enjoying everything. God Bless you!

Charlotte Ring

We would like to extends a big thank you to all of you who expressed care and support for us throughout mom's illness and final days. We appreciated all of the cards, calls and visits. They all meant a lot to us. It is quite a blessing to be a part of such a loving church family.

Judy & Scott Alman and Families

- 1 Dolores Bernemann, Bev McGowan, John Lunde
- 4 Randy & Vivian Lincicum, Larry & Karen Howe
- 5 Pam Klooster, Glenafa Vrchota, Richard Rasmuson
- 6 Gary & Sandy Paulsen
- 7 Emma Dannen
- 8 LeAnn Dixon, Jordain Mensink
- 10 Kim Behrends
- 11 Neil Gogerty
- 12 Voldie Pongo
- 13 Ruby Smith, Larry Harrington, Carol Jass, Cheryl Goetzinger
- 15 Steve & Jan DeLong
- 16 Doug Tiedeman, Alan & Sharon Anderson
- 17 Patricia Davison
- 18 Gerry Keller
- 19 Randy & Kim Behrends, Steve & Tracy Kelly
- 20 Sami Schupanitz
- 21 Randy Rinnels, Emily Garner
- 22 Glody Pongo, Don & Cheryl Ohden
- 23 Amy Johnson, Ashley Harrington, Maggie Harrison
- 24 Brian Lindsay
- 25 Don Freese, Julie Barber, Jami Anderson, Jack McCollough, Roger & Pam Klooster
- 28 Don Kamps, Michelle Whitesell, Morgan Vorba
- 30 Kiran Ernst
- 31 Tyler Halfpop, Al & Sue Deike, Eric & Jennifer Gogerty



Wesley will be hiring a new part time custodian. If you are interested, please contact the office to pick up an application. Applications must be received by August 21st.

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.

Wesley Financial Report

6/26 (2 weeks): \$2650

7/10 (2 weeks): \$5,455

7/17: \$4,282



Ken Zimmerman LISW

Wesley's Year of Giving Back: August 2020

As many of our local families are struggling during this pandemic, a way we can help is by providing school supplies for our area students. Instead of doing school kits for Ingathering, this year we will collect school supplies for local schools. Salvation Army has provided a list of needed items:

Notebooks (wide ruled)	Folders (2 Pockets)
Wide ruled note book paper	School box (pencil box)
Glue/Glue sticks	Pencils (No. 2)
Pens (red, blue, black)	Erasers (large and pencil toppers)
Crayons	Markers
Colored Pencils	Scissors
Rulers	Kleenex



Please leave donated items in the designated box at church.

Also, donations to Mohawk Market and the Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank are encouraged as many families struggle with food insecurity.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1



In an effort to abide by the Methodist Church Reentry Plan guidelines, we have determined it necessary to cancel the Fall Rummage/Garage Sale originally scheduled for early September. Due to this change, we are requesting that you do not bring collected items to the church until further notice.

The Swiss Steak Supper, normally held in October will also be cancelled for this year.

We are working toward reopening, but need to ensure we all stay safe and healthy in the process.

Sincerely,
Judy Alman
Susan Dixon

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.

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.)

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 Mariah Barrett, Philip Wilcox
- 6 Doug & Mariah Barrett
- 10 Arlene Van Horn
- 11 Joyce Hoff
- 15 Gus Sasse
- 17 Ric & Pat Colby
- 18 Colton Mitchell, Candie Eliason
- 21 Paul & Linda Garcia
- 23 Marilyn Mueller, Jazmine Gobeli
- 27 Doug Mitchell
- 31 Maxine Green

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 box of 24 crayons
- 1 pencil eraser 2" or larger



- 1 pencil sharpener 1"
- 1 box of 12 colored pencils
- 6 unsharpened pencils



August HOLY PAIL: Cleaning Buckets



The Giving Tree

Giving Tree Update:

Thank you to everyone for supporting this outreach through your prayers and gifts.

Here are a few stories from the past few weeks.

We had a lady stop by to pick up canned vegetables and she commented on how much this will help she & her husband - she greatly appreciated the meals that have been offered in the past. We asked if she needed prayer and she said yes - her husband has some health issues they are dealing with.

Another young lady and her friends stopped by also - they are just getting settled into the neighborhood and appreciated the canned veggies along with the 4th of July bracelets that were handed out the 2nd week.

Also met a family that were moving out of the neighborhood - but he shared that their 6 kids attended Grace church for Sun. School at some point in their growing up years.

There were 2 gentlemen working on their RV so I stopped and asked if they would like what we are giving away - they said yes - come to find out one of the guys and his wife were the couple that helped to feed the truckers while restaurants were closed.

We have also been able to help out TJs family - a boy in the neighborhood who would frequently come to church. I got to meet some other people in his family as well - very appreciative of the pkg. hotdogs & buns & chips we gave them.

We also met a family that didn't need the help themselves - but they had a family member who did - the Dad is getting back on his feet with custody of his 3 children - who just live around the corner from Grace. They also then gave us a donation to use for another week of giving. All those that stopped were very grateful - sometimes we left any thing we had left on the door steps of houses.

Kathy Sautter's Church Garden and the Tynan family have also given us produce to give away as well.

I also had someone call me and ask about the Giving Tree and Laura Gobeli - ended up delivering to her residency since she had no transportation.

I really enjoy getting to work with everyone on this project and meeting people in the neighborhood. -Jeannie

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
 August 27, 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







