

January 21, 2021

NEWS AND NOTES FROM GRACE & WESLEY



When you meet a stranger, how do you introduce yourself? Chances are, you state your first (and maybe last) name. Or, maybe you go by a nickname of some sort so you ask them to call you by your nickname. If the conversation moves beyond the point of your identification by name, you probably tell the person your occupation and maybe something about your family.

I doubt that many of us would say that a five-minute conversation would give a stranger a comprehensive picture of who we are. Who we are cannot be reduced to our names, occupations, and a few details about us (although, “follower of Jesus” ought to encapsulate our primary identity, of course).

I imagine it would be much more difficult explaining who you were if you were the Messiah; the Savior; the Son of God. While Jesus identified himself by his name and by the title “The Son of Man”, he also utilized parabolic statements to *describe* who he was. After all, how could one name or title completely capture what it is to be **the** Son of God?

In order to clarify and expand on who he was, Jesus used ordinary, culturally relevant symbols and ideas to describe his identity. These can be found chiefly, though not exclusively, in the seven “I Am” statements in the Gospel of John. When considered together as a whole, we find a profound, clear, and largely comprehensive understanding of who Jesus is as the Messiah.

As we enter into this Lenten season once again, I want to encourage all of us to consider these seven “I Am” statements. After all, the aim of Lent is to help us grow closer to the Son of God as we repent, pray, fast, and study, in preparation to celebrate his resurrection. If you are looking for an aspect of faith to focus on during the 40 day Lenten journey, I highly recommend studying and reflecting on these self-identifying proclamations of Jesus.

So, read them. Wrestle with the meaning. Allow the beautiful imagery that flows from the mouth of Jesus to inform and mold your understanding of who he is. Consider how the identity of Jesus impacts who you are as his beloved follower. Be encouraged by the fact that we follow the risen Son of God, who shepherds us, shines before us, nourishes us, grants us safe passage, and provides us with life everlasting, now and forevermore!

“I am the Bread of Life...” (John chapter 6:22-59)

“I am the Light of the World...” (John chapter 8:12-20)

“I am the Gate...” (John chapter 10:1-10)

“I am the Good Shepherd...” (John chapter 10:11-21)

“I am the Resurrection and the Life...” (John chapter 11:1-44)

“I am the Way the Truth and the Life...” (John chapter 14:1-14)

“I am the True Vine...” (John chapter 15:1-17)

God bless you all,

Pastor Craig Luttrell



In-person worship services have resumed at both churches (Wesley, 9:00 AM; Grace, 10:30 AM).

The 9:00 service at Wesley will continue to be livestreamed on the Wesley Facebook page.

Face masks are required.

You do not need to call in to attend a service at this time, but this policy may change if it appears that we are nearing capacity, per Covid protocols.

Wesley Family Outreach Ministry

**No cost!
No hassles!**

Want to make 2021 a better year?

I have heard a lot of people say, "I am sure glad 2020 is over and want 2021 to be a better year". So, let's do that! We have a tradition of making New Year resolutions for ourselves—well, some of us do. Yet all too often we either don't make them or we quickly give up on them. The result is that we go back to what we have been doing. I vote for us making a personal improvement plan for ourselves that will actually make 2021 a better year. Wesley Family Outreach Ministry is here to help you handcraft your own plan this year as well as offering coping tools and support to be successful. Don't hesitate to call Ken at 641-512-5565. Wesley's Family Outreach visits, of course, are without charge to you. We can chat by phone, through Zoom visits and, when possible again, in person. A weekly Zoom support group is being planned for those who might like to get together in a virtual group to support one another.

Have a safe, healthy and joyful new year.

Ken Zimmerman

Wesley Family Outreach Ministry coordinator



Drive Up Communion available in the Wesley parking lot on the Feb. 7, 1:30-2 PM.



Happy Valentine's Day

*Three things will last forever
Faith, Hope, and Love*

**Valentine's Day
Sunday, February 14**



**President's Day
Monday, February 15**



**Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, February 17**

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, February 15.





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 former Wesley member, Wanda Mosier who passed away on 12-24-2020 in Sioux City.

Thank You:

Many thanks to the Wesley Men's Club for the generous New Year's gift. It definitely helps start 2021 out on the right foot! *Patty Strottman*

Thank you to the ladies of the UMW for the wonderful surprise gifts during the 2020 holiday season. *Ramona Hauan*

Thank you to everyone who has sent me cards and for bringing me the Upper Room devotionals. I really appreciate it. *Janet Clemons*

Thank you for your recent gifts of \$2885 to help the Salvation Army. Because of friends like you, the Salvation Army is able to continue transforming lives by giving hope to those who have none. We are truly blessed to have caring friends like you. Friendship can mean different things in different situations. It can mean compassion in times of suffering, reassurance in times of doubt or a helping hand in times of need. You have demonstrated the many qualities of friendship through your generous gift and faithful prayers. Thank you again for caring about the needs of others in our community. *Majors Geffory P. and Leti Crowell*

On behalf of Northern Lights Alliance for the Homeless please allow us to take this opportunity to thank you for the generous donation. Northern Lights Alliance for the Homeless continues to strive to advance our mission of housing and caring for the homeless. Our programs have helped give people a hand up to aid them in bettering their lives. We are able to continue our programs for the homeless because of generous donations from supporters like you. Thank you again for your support.



February

- 1 Lorraine Reynolds, Sarah Enabnit, *John & Sally Lunde*
- 2 Bonnie Mikkelson, Samantha Lievrouw
- 3 Layton McMullin
- 4 Lorraine Bohn
- 7 Jerry Clemons, Kathy Hirsch
- 8 Sharon Anderson, Evan Scheppler
- 9 Joel Ernst
- 10 Jennifer Roney
- 11 Larry Howe, Carolyn Miller
- 12 Alexia Gomez
- 13 Jamie Kranz, Natalee Kearns
- 14 Karen Howe, *Sheldon & Lorraine Bohn, Tim & Diane Walrod*
- 15 Norma Carver, Lisa Vorba
- 17 Donna Tiedeman, Mac Skogen, Zoey Retterath
- 19 Taylor Goetzinger, Perez Adungy
- 21 Blaine Broers
- 22 Ruth Rick, Carsen Johnson
- 23 Amelia Olson
- 25 Kathy Rasmuson, Jim Fullerton, Pauline Janssen, Frank Fox, Sarah Peterson
- 28 Logan Goetzinger
- (29) Sadie Echelbarger



Wesley Financial Report

12/31: \$6990
1/19: \$9047



Wesley's Year of Giving Back: February 2021

Many in our community continue to struggle with meeting their needs. In February we want to help by providing the various agencies with personal care items.

We will be collecting toothpaste, individually packaged toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, bath soap and hand soaps. You may leave your donations in the church entryway.

We will also continue to collect food each month for Mohawk Market and the Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank. Donations may be left in the designated boxes in the entryway.

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:38



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 Norma Jean Gobeli who passed away on 1-3-2021.

Prayer Requests: Please keep Val Suby's sister in your prayers. She is hospitalized with congestive heart failure and pneumonia.

Thank You!

Grace delivered Meals on Wheels the week of Christmas.

Thanks to Marilyn and Jack Mueller for delivering that week.

Thanks to everyone's generous giving, Grace Cares was able to distribute 14 Fareway gift cards for Christmas. Blessings to all!

Thank you for all the prayers, concerns and kindnesses that we have received during Dad's struggle with Covid. *Troy & Brandi Gobeli and Family*

The entire Gobeli family would like to thank you for the prayers, concerns, cards and support following the passing of Norma Jean. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated.



February

7	Dawn Mitchell
10	Ric Colby
11	Royce Hippen
13	Parker Authier
14	Jack Barrett
17	Linda Garcia
20	Donna Brummund
24	Kim Peters
26	Laura (Jon) Gobeli



Reminder that Upper Room daily devotionals are available at Grace on the table near the front entry. Please take advantage of this easy way to stay in God's Word. If you are able, a donation of \$1 or \$2 is welcome to be placed in the basket nearby.

Grace United Methodist Women delivered our Special Mission Recognition pins from 2020 in January to the following people for their devotion and work in our church. Thank you to these people who make Grace a great place to belong!

- Ellie Authier
- Linda Garcia
- Donna Brummund

A donation to mission has been given in their honor. They join a long list of those who have been honored with this award.

Congratulations.

Grace United Methodist Women

FEBRUARY HOLY PAIL: WOMEN AT THE WELL



GRACE & WESLEY



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the position of Wesley/Grace secretary has been changed to 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.

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
 February 18, 2021.

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











