

March 25, 2021

NEWS AND NOTES FROM GRACE & WESLEY

The Resurrection & the Life John 11:25-26

Last month my wife was looking at the calendar that hangs on our wall and brought to my attention an important and sobering date: it had been one whole year since the pandemic hit the United States; one whole year since everything shut down; one whole year of masks, distancing, and wondering when things would get “back to normal.” In the past 12 months, some of us have lost love ones (a few of us to Covid, in fact). Some of us have grown despondent due to the isolation and anxiety. Some of us have already moved on—or, at least, have tried. I am not a pessimistic person, but let’s face it: this past year has been a dark one in many, many respects.

I find it interesting (and comforting) that spring and Easter are upon us at this point in time. The days are getting longer and warmer. The birds are returning. Leaves are beginning to bud and the grass is slowly changing back to green. We are preparing to emerge from the darkness and repentance of our Lenten journey in order to celebrate the Resurrection and the Life of Jesus.

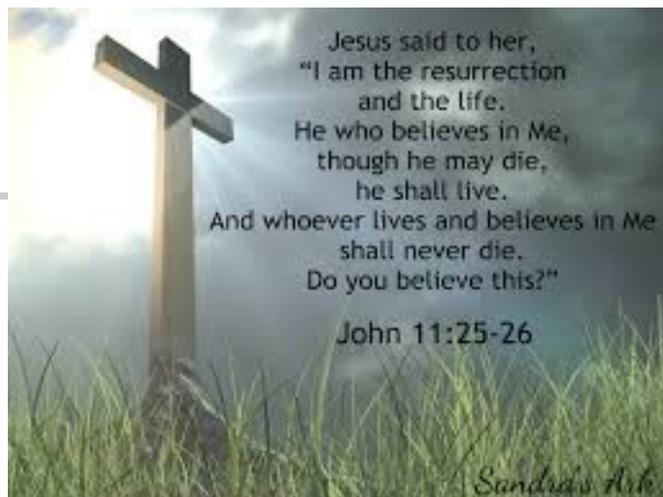
At the same time, vaccines are rolling out at record pace. Families are gathering together more frequently again. Slowly people are returning to worship together at both Grace and Wesley. We are preparing to emerge from a dark season and be the Church in person, together, hand in hand, once again. In the coming weeks we will be reintroducing communal singing, communal reading, fellowship time, Bible studies, and visitation once again. Indeed, I, like I’m sure all of you, am really looking forward to resuming our life together in a more “normal” fashion very, very soon.

And yet, resurrection will be required. **New** life must spring forth. When the women and the disciples discovered the empty tomb, their lives did not simply go back to the way they were before; rather, they experienced the risen Christ and embarked on a mission with a new and *renewed* sense of purpose and hope. We must do the same. We cannot simply return to what we were before. We must be open to experiencing our risen Lord and embarking on his mission with a renewed sense of purpose and hope.

And so we will. I, along with the councils of both Grace and Wesley, are planning on a slow rebuilding over the summer months as people begin to return to in person worship and other gatherings. From there, each church will launch in the fall with a new vision and ministry opportunities, with the goal of living into whatever it is Christ has for us as Grace and Wesley Churches in Mason City in the near future.

May God richly bless you during this Easter season and may all of us experience the Resurrection and the Life who is Jesus Christ.

Pastor Craig Luttrell





It's BACK!!!

Mark your calendar for April 25, beginning at 11:30 AM at First UMC, for the ASP Hog Roast. Proceeds will be used for participation in the Appalachian Service Project mission trip.



This year it will be a drive-thru only meal (pulled pork sandwich, baked beans and potato salad & dessert bar) for \$9.00. (Pick up on south side of First UMC.)

Tickets will be available in the Wesley and First UMC offices beginning Monday, March 29!

Maudy Thursday Service (April 1)

6:30 PM at Wesley; service livestreamed on the Wesley Facebook page

Joint United Methodist Good Friday Service (April 2)

6:30 PM at Frist UMC; service livestreamed on First UMC's Facebook page, so those not able to join in person hopefully will join online. Our Facebook page is available either through our website, www.firstunitedmethodistchurchmc.org, or www.facebook.com/firstunitedmethodistchurchmasoncityiowa/

Easter Sunday (April 4)

9:00 AM at Wesley; service livestreamed on Wesley Facebook page.

10:30 AM at Grace



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.



Let's Talk!

COVID-19 precautions, testing, vaccination—so much to talk about. Wesley Family Outreach Ministry is a resource to you to talk about all of this. Staying safe and healthy takes it seems more work than ever. The action steps to take can be frustrating and confusing. Less discussed are the behavioral, social and emotional impacts COVID-19 is having on our lives. So, want to talk? If so, give Ken a call at 641-512-5565. He will also be working to stay current on how to get registered for vaccinations.

You will find an Easter Offering envelope enclosed in this newsletter.

This year, Grace's offering will be directed to the mission work of Grace Cares and Wesley's offering will be divided between Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank and Crisis Intervention Services.

Drive Up Communion will be available in the Wesley parking lot on April 4, 1:30-2 PM.



Easter packets for the Wesley Sunday School kids are available in the church entryway.



Wesley will be delivering Meals on Wheels the week of May 3-7.

Two sets of volunteers are needed to cover Routes 2 & 3. Meals will be picked up at

10:45 at the Main Entrance of the hospital on the south side of Mercy.

If you are able to help out that week, please call JoAnn Gerbig, phone 424-5212 .

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, April 19.





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.)
Kathy Rasmuson

Condolences: ...to the friends and family of Ruth Rick who passed away on 3/15/2021.

Thank You:

I'm writing to say thank you for your generous and continued support of the Humane Society of North Iowa. 2020 was a challenging year for us, but thanks to support from friends like you, we are able to continue our mission of helping animals in need. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of animals!

With gratitude, Sybil Soukup

Thank you to the UMW for the Valentine treat.

Ida Rhine

On behalf of Northern Lights Alliance for the homeless please allow us to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donation of men's and ladies' personal items.

Jeannie Churchill, Executive Director

Thank you to the Wesley United Methodist Women for the Valentine goodies.

Phyllis Prefakes

Thank you for your generous donation of toilet paper, soaps, body wash and hygiene kits to support our vision for a society free from violence. In addition to the practicality of your gift, it is encouraging for us to know that concerned individuals within the community are aware of the needs we meet and are willing to assist us in our mission. We pledge to you our best efforts to give quality assistance to those we serve and to use your donation in the most careful way possible.



"Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again rejoice."

Philippians 4:4 NIV

Upcoming UMW Meetings:

UMW Executive Board Meeting: April 1, 3:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
Esther Circle Meeting: April 15, 3:45 p.m., Fellowship Hall

2020 UMW Donations/Disbursements

Pledge to Mission	1,500.00	New Beginnings—House of	
Gift in Memory	130.00	Hope	125.00
Love Gift	100.00	North Iowa Community	
Scarritt-Bennett Center	50.00	Kitchen	125.00
Bidwell Riverside	75.00	North Iowa Transition	
Shesler Hall	75.00	Center	125.00
Hawthorn Hill	75.00	One Vision	125.00
Service Out Reach	25.00	Salvation Army	125.00
UMCOR	25.00	Women at the Well	125.00
Wesley United Methodist	1,089.83	Hawkeye Harvest Food	
Christmas Surprise	125.00	Bank	125.00
Mission Ingathering	200.00	Stebens Theater—Scholarship	
Crisis Intervention Services	125.00	Program	125.00
Francis Lauer	125.00	YMCA—Scholarship Program	125.00
Globe Gazette Cheer Fund	125.00	YMCA—Inclusion Program	125.00
Good Shepherd	125.00		
Habitat for Humanity	125.00	My Happy Haven—Breast	
Larry Kies—Missionary	125.00	Cancer	125.00
My Happy Place	125.00		

TOTAL: \$5,719.83



April

- 1 Bob McGowan
- 2 Chase Peterson
- 3 Meg Brady
- 4 Mary Alverson
- 5 Jeff Skogen
- 6 Courtney Peters, Paul & Susan Dixon
- 7 Alexis Ballantyne
- 9 Jon & Sheryl Mariner
- 11 Evelyn Buffington, Michelle Beek
- 12 Sandy Schupanitz
- 14 Ron Ballantyne
- 15 Jason & Katie Dannen
- 23 Judy Alman, Lindsay Kearns
- 24 Kris & Amy Scheppler
- 25 Caren Ellis
- 26 Brent Schupanitz, Kenli Peterson
- 28 Darlene Dailey
- 29 Ann Butcher
- 30 Jan Weaver

Wesley Financial Report

2/19: \$6175
3/5 \$4706



Wesley's Mission Project for April

We have had an outstanding response to our mission giving so far this year. The agencies we have donated to have been very appreciative.

For April, we will focus on the BeJe Clark Center. They have also reported a great need for personal hygiene items. We will again focus on **toothpaste, individually packaged toothbrushes, men's and women's deodorant, shampoo and bar soap.**

They are also requesting **men's and women's gently used coats and sweatshirts, particularly in the plus sizes: 1X, 2X and 3X.**

As usual we will continue to collect for the Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank and Mohawk Market. All donations can be left in their designated boxes in the church entryway.

Thank you for your generosity!

"A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."

Proverbs 11:25

Prayer Requests

**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.)

Thank You!

Grace delivered Meals on Wheels the week of March 15. Thanks to Paul Garcia, Danny Tripp, Jack and Marilyn Mueller, Sally Tripp, and Pam Hardy.



Shesler Hall is located in Sioux City and is one of United Methodist Women's National Missions. This facility provides residential living to homeless women with chronic mental illness. They recently experienced damage totaling over \$3000. With an already stretched budget, this is a great burden and if you would feel moved to help, please send a check made out to Shesler Hall to either Susan Dixon from Wesley or Kathy Sautter from Grace. Thanks for helping us to support an important mission.

The Grace UMW will not be holding their Salad Luncheon scheduled for April .

Grace UMW will not meet in April. Our next meeting will be May 4th at 7:00 PM at the church. The Thank Offering will be taken.

APRIL HOLY PAIR: CLEANING BUCKETS**April**

- 4 Marlene Gobeli
- 5 Steven Tynan
- 9 Phil Ehrenberg
- 16 Kristina Tynan
- 20 *Jon & Laura Gobeli*
- 25 Pam Hardy
- 26 Dixie Mennen, Allison Eldridge
- 28 *Steve & Paulette Lugg*

GRACE & WESLEY

Patty will be out of the office April 5-18 for a post-vaccination celebration vacation.



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
 April 22, 2021.

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







