

February 18, 2021

## NEWS AND NOTES FROM GRACE & WESLEY

### Lenten Series: Vice & Virtue

Well, we are now in the midst of our 2021 Lenten journey. The season of Lent, which stretches from Ash Wednesday (February 17<sup>th</sup>) through Easter Sunday (April 4<sup>th</sup>), is a period marked by repentance and self-denial. I like to think of Lent as an invitation from our Lord to examine our lives and recommit to living as disciplined followers of Jesus Christ.

As I mentioned in the first Sunday of our Lenten series, we often we associate giving something up with the season of Lent. It is not uncommon for Christians to give up sweets or pop or television programs, for example, as a gesture of sacrifice and self-denial. Ideally, Christians also take something *on* during Lent, such as extra Scripture reading, time in prayer, or acts of mercy. Any or all of these approaches to Lent can, if done in the right spirit, lead to deeper intimacy with Christ and growth in discipleship.

For our Lenten sermon series, we are approaching this season from the angle of the classic Christian vices (or sins) and virtues. Most of us are familiar with the “seven deadly sins” (vices), but may be less familiar with the “seven heavenly virtues”, which counter the seven deadly sins. We have been and will continue to explore these seven sins, which God calls us to **give up**, and seven virtues, which God calls us to **take up**, throughout the course of Lent. My prayer is that through this practice we will become more holy, disciplined, faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. The series will take the following format:

Week One: Greed vs. Generosity

Week Two: Gluttony vs. Temperance

Week Three: Lust vs. Chastity

Week Four: Envy vs. Kindness

Week Five: Wrath vs. Patience

Week Six: Sloth vs. Diligence

Week Seven: Pride vs. Humility

May God bless us all as we journey together through this season of repentance and self denial, knowing that the hope of the Resurrection awaits us at the end.

God bless you,

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.



**Drive Up Communion will be available in the Wesley parking lot on the March 7, 1:30 -2 PM.**

As we embark on the annual Lenten journey, consider these quotes about fasting, spiritual growth and the power of prayer.

"Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One. It is a period of spiritual 'combat' which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism." -- Pope Benedict XVI "

Some people think that having ash on your forehead is ridiculous. But I am neither ashamed nor afraid because the ashes remind me that I have to someday pass away and reunite with my creator." -- Walter Buns

"Prayer is where the action is." -- John Wesley

"The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist." -- Pope St. Gregory the Great

"Prayer is reaching out after the unseen; fasting is letting go of all that is seen and temporal. Fasting helps express, deepen, confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God."

-- Andrew Murray

"Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truth: who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life..." -- Pope Benedict XVI



**Daylight Savings Time begins on March 14!**



**The Pastor Will Be Away**

**Pastor Craig will be on vacation the week of Spring Break.—March 15-19.**



**St. Patrick's Day March 17**



**First Day of Spring: March 20**

### **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, March 22.





**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 Virginia Ward who passed away on 1-21 and to the friends and family of Duane Mummelthie who passed away on 2-2 in Arizona and to Wayne Arp on the loss of his daughter,

**Thank You:**

Many thanks for the beautiful cards and generous gifts that I received for my birthday. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated so very much!

*Patty Strotzman*

Thank you to the ladies of the UMW for the Valentine treats.

*Don Freese*

Thank you so much for the Valentine card and candy. I really appreciate them.

*Marcia Butcher*

Thanks for all the joy in receiving so many birthday cards from my church family. It has touched my heart with all of your caring, blessings and memories. Also, thank you to the UMW for the Valentine treat. It was a joy to receive. God bless you all.

*Charlotte Ring*

Thank you for your generous donation to the Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank of 142 pounds of food!

As an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, we depend on contributions from caring members of the community to serve those who struggle to feed their families. Your involvement makes all the difference!

*Linda Duvall, Board of Directors*



UMW Executive Board Meeting on Thursday, March 4 at 3:30 in Fellowship Hall. We will social distance and wear masks. And....If convenient bring wrapped candy for our next delivery to shut-ins.



**March**

- 1 Rich Lloyd
- 2 Kathy Rezabek, Tracy Skogen, Heather Jo Bailey, Teddy Luttrell
- 3 Kacey Bailey
- 4 Mary Nell Fullerton
- 5 Jan DeLong
- 6 Wayne Arp
- 7 Pam Trygstad, Gerald Brady, Bob & Bev McGowan
- 8 Dora Mahn
- 9 Marcus Peterson
- 11 Brian Hammarstedt, Ava Scheppeler
- 12 Charlotte Linden
- 14 Kellie Buland
- 17 David & Erin Brownmiller
- 20 Brian Johnson
- 21 Larry Bernemann, Jeri Winter, Amy Kranz
- 22 Jenna Olson
- 23 Dalton Peters
- 26 Kati Dannen
- 27 Kathie Huling, Jon & Michelle White sell
- 28 Richard & Sharon Bosma
- 29 Mark Harrington
- 31 LaDonna Norris

**Wesley Financial Report**

2/5: \$5330



**Wesley's Mission Project for March**

We are fortunate to have many in our church who are willing to use their gifts to minister to the people for the betterment of our community. Please join your church family this month in providing items for the homeless shelter and Crisis Intervention.

**For the month of March we will collect their greatest needs, which are:**

- Disinfecting wipes
- Non-perishable food items geared toward children (Hamburger Helper, macaroni & cheese, canned ravioli and spaghetti, canned fruit)

We will continue to collect for the Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank and Mohawk Market throughout the year. You may leave all donations in the appropriate bins in the church entryway.



*"Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to."* Deuteronomy 15:10



**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 Jessica Edgington who passed away on 1-29-2021.



Grace UMW plans to meet March 2nd, 7 PM at the church for it's regular meeting. The Call to Prayer and Self Denial program will be given and offering will be collected. There will not be an Executive Board meeting. If you do not feel comfortable attending, you may send your offering to Kathy. The meeting will be held distanced and masked and no refreshments will be served.



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.

**MARCH HOLY PAIL: HEIFER INTERNATIONAL—ALPACAS**



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  
 March 25, 2021.

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











