

April 22, 2021

## NEWS AND NOTES FROM GRACE & WESLEY

### Good Things Come to Those Who...



I confess I am a work in progress. One of my “growing edges” is my capacity (or lack thereof) to wait. Every April, as the weather begins to warm, I start to pack away the winter clothes and fill drawers with shorts and t-shirts, switch out the snow blower and shovels in the garage with bikes and outdoor toys, dust off my running shoes for some much needed outdoor exercise, and enjoy the first few weeks of the bugless, low humidity, low-wa weather. There is something almost magical about the way my mood seems to lift as I walk out the door and feel the warmth of the sun after the long, winter slog.

But, alas, inevitably, the April weather puts a damper on many of my well-conceived plans. Thankfully we did not experience a late season snow this year (as of the time I wrote this article); however, the thirties did return, as they always do. And I had trouble, as I always do, waiting for the warmth to return. My sons’ new spring clothes remained dormant a while longer, while their well-worn, now too short long pants got a few more uses. I retreated to the basement to exercise a few more times, unwilling to “brave” the chilly weather. It seems like every year I end up saying to myself, “surely this will be the last of it”, only to see another stretch of cold weather pop up in the forecast.

Sure enough, however, spring will indeed arrive, just as it does every year. As I reflected on my impatience, the age old adage “good things come to those who wait” came to mind, as did Psalm 27: “Wait for the Lord, be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!” In this Psalm, David supplies a list of difficult situations he found himself in: evil doers and enemies assail him; an army encamps against him; false witnesses rise against him. What is David’s response to these challenges? He believes he will see the goodness of the Lord and therefore takes courage and **waits** for the Lord.

Now, obviously a few chilly spring days is silly compared to the serious challenges David described in his Psalm; however, when we are forced to wait—whether it be for a change in weather, a potentially serious test result to come back, a loved one to start making better decisions, a job offer to come through, the church to begin growing again, and so on—we are advised by the Psalmist as to how we are to wait: believe in the goodness of the Lord, take courage, and, essentially, trust God. Wait for the Lord.

I realize this is much easier said than done (as I said, I’m a work in progress), but we would do well to remember that when it comes to waiting, we have a choice in how we will do so. We can wait impatiently, filled with worry, wishing the time would pass away more quickly; or, we can turn to God, believing in His goodness and His willingness to provide us with the strength and courage we need, regardless of what happens once the waiting is over.

I, for one, am filled with joy that winter has passed and spring has arrived. And I am excited about what God has in store for Grace and Wesley in our upcoming season together. With that being said, I invite you all to remind me of Psalm 27 in late July, when I tend to impatiently await the cooler weather.

*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.



I would like to thank Dennis Dischler and Paul Anderson for volunteering to deliver Meals on Wheels for Wesley the week of May 3rd.

It is much appreciated by the people who receive them. Your time is appreciated and valued.

Sincerely, JoAnn Gerbig



National Day of Prayer  
May 6



Memorial Day  
May 31



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



Mother's Day May 9

A mother is a person you can always call to see how long chicken lasts in the fridge.

Sometimes I open my mouth and my mother comes out.

Call your mother. Tell her, you love her. Remember you're the only person who knows what her heart sounds like from the inside.

I hate when I'm waiting for Mom to cook dinner and then I remember I'm Mom.

My children are making it really difficult to be the mom I always imagined I would be.

Before I became a parent I swore my kids would never throw a tantrum in public -> let's all take a moment to laugh at this together

There are no perfect moms, and there are no perfect children, but there are plenty of perfect moments along the way.

My nickname is "Mom" but my full name is "Mom Mom Mom Mom Mom"

Parenting: if you feel crazy then you're doing it right.

### 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, May 17.





**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:**

Thank you to the women of the United Methodist Women for remembering me this Easter. I truly appreciate being remembered and wish my friends at Wesley the best.  
*Carol Ives*

I am sending a heart felt thank you to my church family for all of the cards, calls, food & prayers you provided throughout my surgery and following treatments. You are a blessing to me and to Wesley. In Christ's love,

*Judy Alman*

Thank you to those who sent cards or called after my surgery. Thank you to the women of our church for the treats they have brought this past year. It brightened up some days which was helpful this year of a pandemic.

*Kathy Rasmuson*

Thank you to the UMW for the Easter treats. God's blessings to you all,

*Marlys Thompson*

Hello, Christian Friends,

Sorry, but we felt better at home because of Covid, so wanted to let you know we have been doing church on TV. It's getting harder for me to walk, so don't know when we will come back to church. Miss the fellowship with all. Happy Easter to all. Such a memorable time that Jesus was resurrected and what a blessing for all of us. He rose from the grave to give us all eternal life.

*Marjorie Sheldon & Clifford Boyer*

On behalf of Northern Lights Alliance for the Homeless please allow us to take the opportunity to thank you for your donation of the food and cleaning supplies. Your commitment to helping the homeless in the community is sincerely appreciated.

*Jeannie Churchill, Executive Director*

Thank you for your generous donation of antibacterial wipes and food items for kids to support our vision for a society free from violence. Because of this support, we can continue to offer our free prevention and intervention services to those in need.

*Mary J. Ingham, Executive Director*



**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**

3/31: \$6965



**UMW Notes**



*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*  
John 3:16

**Upcoming UMW Meetings:**

- Executive Board Meeting - May 6, 2021 - 3:30 p.m.
- Esther Circle Meeting - May 20, 2021 - 3:45 p.m.

**Wesley's Mission Project for May**

For this spring our mission project will focus on babies. Join your church family in supporting the newest members of our community by donating their greatest needs. We will be collecting **diapers sizes 1-4, baby wipes, baby shampoo and baby liquid bath soap.**



Your contributions will be distributed to various community agencies.

Please remember to continue to fill our boxes 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 continued support.

*"If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered."*

Proverbs 21:13



**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.)



Grace UMW will meet on May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the church. The Thank Offering will be taken.

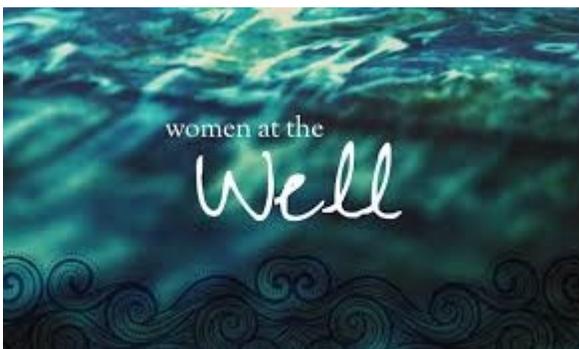
**May**

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



Please join us in celebrating Jack Barrett's high school graduation! May 23, 2021 from 4-6pm at our home. The Barrett estate rests on 1225 North President Avenue here in Mason City!

**MAY 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  
 May 20, 2021.

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







