

June 24, 2021

NEWS AND NOTES FROM GRACE & WESLEY



“Blessed”

It is quite common for people inside and outside the Church to utter the phrases “I am blessed” or “God has really blessed you,” etc. When we get a new car or buy a new house we may look at our purchase and think, “God has blessed me.” If we land a new job or receive a promotion we think, “God has blessed me.” When we look at our spouse or new baby or growing grandchildren we think, “God has truly blessed us.”

It is right to be thankful for what God has blessed us with. Scripture certainly makes it clear that God desires a grateful heart in the community of believers (Psalm 107, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Ephesians 5:19-20); however, the idea of being “blessed” has been tossed around so frequently that it has, to some degree, been disconnected from the biblical meaning of *God’s blessing*.

In Genesis 15, God makes a covenant with Abram. In the account of this covenant, God tells Abram, “Do not fear, I am a shield to you; *your reward shall be very great.*” The Hebrew in this text is rather ambiguous, so Bible translations ought to offer us an alternate translation, which is equally valid: “Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; ***I am your very great reward.***” This understanding of the original covenant God made with his people sheds light on what it truly means to “be blessed.”

The fundamental biblical meaning of “being blessed” is being in a covenant (or relationship) with God. The presence of the God of the universe, the creator and sustainer of all, is our greatest reward or blessing. Any material goods or enjoyments pale in comparison to this blessing. The early followers of Jesus had very little in the way of material goods and suffered in ways that you and I can only imagine; yet, would any of us argue that they were not ***blessed*** by God? Conversely, there are those who seem to have anything and everything; yet, if they are not in a covenant with Christ, they are not ***blessed***—at least not from the foundational biblical perspective of “blessing”.

There is one other aspect of “being blessed” we must keep in mind: God blesses us so that we will bless others. In Genesis, God blesses Abram with his presence *so that* Abram would be a blessing to the nations. God does not bless us simply for our own sake. God blesses us with his presence *so that* we will share this blessing (his presence) with others. And, flowing out from this primary blessing, God blesses us with material goods so that we might be a blessing to others in this way as well.

We are blessed by the God who loves us *so that* we will be a blessing to everyone we encounter. As a people ***blessed*** by our relationship with God, let us be a blessing to the people in our community in word and deed!

Pastor Craig Luttrell

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.)



July

- 1 Jerry & Vicki Als
- 4 Kayla Harrington, Bob & Sadie Echelbarger
- 6 Gary Paulsen
- 7 Steve Weitzel
- 8 Laura Weers, Joe Terlisner
- 10 Steve Harrington, Bryan Dannen, McKenna Whitehill
- 11 Jeromy Howe, Tori Anderson, Brian & Janine Hammarstedt, Doug & Donna Tiedeman
- 15 Richard Bosma, Jason Beek, Kade Bailey, Ken & Nancy Christensen
- 16 Carol Ades, Nicole Brownmiller
- 17 Sue Hesley, Doug Janssen, Alivia Al man, Dick & Carol Jass, Bruce & La Vonne Kaasa, Craig Luttrell
- 19 Ben Weitzel
- 20 Sharon Bosma, Sharon Belseth
- 21 Tracy Kelly, Doug & Pauline Janssen
- 23 LaVonne Kaasa, Steve & Lynette Harrington
- 24 Sam Weitzel, Gerry & Cindy Keller
- 25 Kris Rasmussen, Chase Scheppler
- 28 Mary Sharp, Dale Arnold
- 29 Sheryl Mariner, Isabella Garner
- 30 Sebastian Luttrell

Condolences: to the friends and families of: Carol King who passed away on June 12, Layton McMullin who passed away on June 12, Scott Davison who passed away on June 18, Bill Frelund who passed away on June 19 and Glenafa Vrchota who passed away on June 20.

Thank You:

Thank you to the Wesley women for the Easter and May Day treats. Very much enjoyed! *Don Freese*

You have been a support to me during my long journey to recovery. Thank you for your visits, cards and prayers. The staff is caring here and the food is great.

My favorite verse God has given me is "For I will restore your health and heal your wounds." God bless you all. *Velma Tschetter*

I want to thank the Wesley UMW and people for their thoughts, prayers, cards and concerns for my recent fall. Also for always remembering us on special occasions here at Kentucky Ridge. I am doing OK and very blessed. God bless you all. *Mary Sharp*

Thank you for your very generous donation to the Caring Pregnancy Center. Your thoughtful gifts will bless many of our moms and their babies! *Mary, for the Caring Pregnancy Center*

Thank you to everyone who has helped with our rhubarb pie project: those who contributed rhubarb, those who contributed money to buy ingredients, those who helped to make the pies and those who purchased pies. We made 131 pies, with the proceeds going toward the new kitchen refrigerator. Your support is very much appreciated! *Donna Sutcliffe*

We want to send a special thank you for all who helped in any way to make our church rummage sale a success. It is a big project that cannot be done without a lot of help. The women made approximately \$1366 and the men approximately \$650. All of the proceeds will go to missions. All of our hard work will be greatly appreciated by many throughout our community. *Judy Alman & Susan Dixon*

I would like to express my appreciation to Bev McGowan for the wonderful job that she does taking care of the office when I am gone. It takes away the stress of coming back to work after vacation...well, most of it anyway! :-) Thank you, Bev! *Patty Strotzman*

We would like to say thank you to everyone who helped with the wonderful open house put on our behalf for the 16 years we were custodians at Wesley Church. Also thanks to all who came and for all the cards and well wishes on our move to Ankeny to be closer to our family. We would like to extend to everyone a welcome to stop in when down our way or a phone call would also work. God bless all our friends and family at Wesley *Love, Dick & Carol Jass*

New Address: 403 SE Delaware Ave. Building #6 Condo #206 Ankeny, IA 50021

Phone: Dick: 641-512-3880; Carol: 641-512-6570

UMW NOTES



"All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man."

James 3:7 NIV

UMW Executive Board meeting – July 1 at 3:30 pm - Fellowship Hall

Esther Circle Meeting – July 15 at 3:45 pm – Fellowship Hall

Wesley Financial Report

5/20: \$7117
6/3: \$3336



United Methodist Church Ingathering

The 42nd Annual Mission Ingathering will be held across Iowa on Saturday, November 6, 2021. "The Purpose of Mission Ingathering is to show the love of Christ to the world's people by ministering to their needs."

Over the next few months, UMW will be collecting items for Personal Dignity Kits. Each kit contains:

- * 1 Hand Towel
- * 1 Washcloth
- * 1 Adult Toothbrush (no multipacks)
- * 1 Bar soap (3 - 4 oz)
- * 1 Shampoo (15 -18 oz)
- * 1 Deodorant (2 - 3oz stick, roll on, or pump)



You do not need to purchase a full kit. We will gladly accept donations of any individual items. ALL items must be new.

These kits are distributed to those needing humanitarian and disaster relief in the United States and around the world. Thank you for all you do for others.

Wesley's Mission Project for July

Many of our local families continue to struggle following the pandemic. We can help by providing school supplies for our area students. In lieu of putting together school kits for Ingathering this year, we will collect school supplies for our local schools. The Salvation Army has provided a list of needed items:

- Notebooks (wide-ruled only)
- Wide-ruled notebook paper
- Glue and glue sticks
- Pens (red, blue, black)
- Colored pencils
- 24-pack crayons
- Erasers, large and pencil top
- Markers
- Pencil boxes
- Rulers
- Folders, 2-pocket
- Scissors, rounded point
- Kleenex



Donated items will be distributed to local schools and agencies.

"He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done."

Proverbs 19:17

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, July 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.)

Condolences:

Thank You

Grace was responsible for Meals on Wheels the week of May 31. Thanks go out to Paul Garcia, Marilyn and Jack Mueller, Pam Hardy and Sally Tripp for delivering meals.

Thank you to the Grace Church Council for the gift in honor of staff appreciation month. I appreciate your thoughtfulness—and I appreciate YOU!
Patty Strottman



Our next meeting will be on Thursday July 8 at 7:00 PM for a business meeting at the church. (Note the change in day!)

Also, we will meet on August 3rd at 7:00 PM at the church. Please note these changes!

UMW is planning a fundraiser on August 28, 2021. It will be a drive up meal similar to the Ice Cream Social.

Details will be forthcoming.

We wish to collect money for ingredients for the potato salad instead of collecting the grocery items. Please send money to Maxine Green if you wish to donate, or give to a UMW member clearly marked for our fundraiser. We appreciate your support!



July

- 6 Tim Sautter
- 12 Sally & Danny Tripp
- 15 Valerie Suby
- 17 Craig Luttrell
- 24 Gerry & Cindy Keller
- 30 Sebastian Luttrell



The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree Returns

Grace's neighborhood ministry, The Giving Tree, is returning starting July 25. Items for give away will be available on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 to 5:00 PM on the front lawn of the church weather permitting. Giveaway items will vary from week to week, see the bulletin for updates. The ministry will run Sundays July 25 through September 26.

We will be accepting donations of canned goods and garden produce during those weeks.

If you have questions or want to volunteer, contact Jeannie Johnson at 425-4696 or Kathy Sautter at 583-0952.

JULY HOLY PAIL:

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL—ALPACAS



Wesley United Methodist Church
 1405 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
 Mason City, IA 50401
 641-423-6549 patty@mwesley.org
 Office Hours: MWF, 9-12 (or 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
 July 22, 2021.

Pastor Craig Luttrell pastorcraig@mcweley.org 641-691-5447

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











