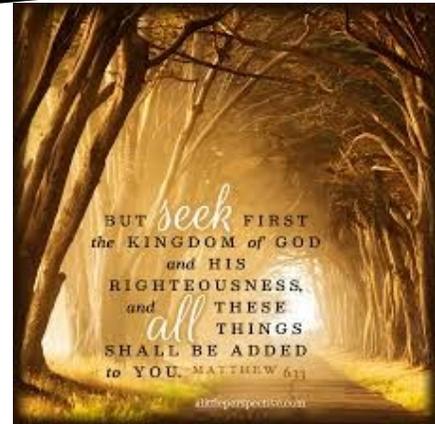


July 22, 2021

NEWS AND NOTES FROM GRACE & WESLEY

Our Great Reward (Matthew 6:1-18)



Many of us are familiar with a story from the Gospel of Matthew in which Jesus teaches about piety. In the text, Jesus speaks not only about the importance of doing righteous deeds, but also of doing them for the right reasons.

Apparently there were people, such as some Pharisees, who were giving alms to the poor, praying, and fasting in order to win approval and praise from others. Jesus labels these people as “hypocrites” because they were *pretending* to do righteous deeds for God, but were really just doing them to impress others. Rather than giving to the poor to bless God’s children; and rather than praying in order to commune with God; and rather than fasting as an act of sacrificial faith; they simply wanted others to place them on a “holiness pedestal”. Jesus says such people have already received their reward. They wanted praise from others and they got it.

The primary point of the text, then, is to be careful about practicing piety to please others rather than God. There will be no reward from God when such acts are done to impress other people and garner praise for one’s self. There is, however, another point we often overlook, perhaps because we are not sure what to make of it.

Jesus not only implies—but directly states—that God will reward people when they perform righteous deeds for the right reasons: “Your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you.” Some of us may struggle with this because we view receiving a reward as incompatible with genuine altruism. Shouldn’t a good deed be done simply because it’s the right thing to do? Is it right to expect a reward from God when we are obedient? After all, God has already given us so much— isn’t it selfish to expect a reward for doing what we ought to be doing regardless?

I think it’s important to note that Jesus does not say that receiving a reward ought to be our *motive* for giving, praying, and fasting. While Jesus makes it clear God *will* reward pious acts, he doesn’t say we ought to do them *in order* to receive a reward. We should do them out of our love for God and our desire to become the people God created us to be.

And what if that actually *is* the reward? We tend to associate “reward” with material blessings or good health and safety and the like; but, what if the reward is that God will use our obedience to shape us more into the likeness of Christ? What if the reward is that God will use us more powerfully to build his Kingdom on earth in mightier ways, due to our being faithful? What if the reward is the peace and joy that only comes when we are faithfully being conformed to the will and ways of God, the Father? What remarkable rewards indeed!

Be encouraged, Grace and Wesley. When we are faithful, Christ promises us God will indeed reward us. Let us continue, as churches, to be generous, prayerful, sacrificial bodies of believers. When we are faithful in such ways, God will reward us by transforming us more into his likeness each and every day.

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.)
 Doug Janssen

Condolences: to the friends and families of LeRoy Knutson who passed away on 7/9/2021.

Thank You:

Thank you once again to the UMW for the treats that were delivered to me for July 4th. Your thoughtfulness is always appreciated! *Charlotte Ring*

Thank you to the Wesley women for the Easter and May Day treats. Also, thanks for all the cards sent to me while I was ill. *Ida Rhine*

Thank you so much for the July 4th candies and the bright sign. *Marcia Butcher*

Thank you to my Wesley sisters who prepare and deliver our "special Occasion" treats. Very much enjoyed! And to Charlotte for beautiful cards and words of encouragement! Love you all, too—God be with you! *Gen Lepird*

Wesley Pulled Pork Supper



Wednesday, August 18
4:30-7:00 PM (or until gone!)
DRIVE-THRU ONLY!

Menu: Pulled Pork Sandwich, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Chips and Cookie
\$10.00 adults / \$6.00 under 10

Proceeds will go to mission projects.

In order to raise our profits for missions, we are collecting monetary donations to defray the cost of the upcoming pulled pork supper. If you are able to help with these expenses, please send your donation to the church office or give it to Judy Alman or Susan Dixon. Be sure to indicate that it is to go toward the pulled pork supper expenses.

Thank you for your support!



August

- 1 Dolores Bernemann, Bev McGowan, John Lunde
- 4 *Randy & Vivian Lincicum, Larry & Karen Howe*
- 5 Pam Klooster
- 6 *Gary & Sandy Paulsen*
- 7 Emma Dannen
- 8 LeAnn Dixon, Jordain Mensink
- 10 Kim Behrends
- 11 Neil Gogerty
- 12 Voldie Pongo
- 13 Ruby Smith, Larry Harrington, Carol Jass, Cheryl Goetzinger
- 15 *Steve & Jan DeLong*
- 16 Doug Tiedeman, *Alan & Sharon Anderson*
- 17 Patricia Davison
- 18 Gerry Keller
- 19 *Randy & Kim Behrends, Steve & Tracy Kelly*
- 20 Sami Schupanitz
- 21 Randy Rinnels, Emily Garner
- 22 Glody Pongo, *Don & Cheryl Ohden*
- 23 Amy Johnson, Ashley Harrington, Maggie Harrison
- 24 Brian Lindsay
- 25 Don Freese, Julie Barber, Jami Anderson, Jack McCollough, *Roger & Pam Klooster*
- 28 Don Kamps, Michelle Whitesell, Morgan Vorba
- 30 Kiran Ernst
- 31 Tyler Halfpop, *Al & Sue Deike, Eric & Jennifer Gogerty*



UMW NOTES

"Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him."
 Proverbs 30:5 NIV

Executive Board Meeting: August 5, 3:30, Fellowship Hall
 Esther Circle Meeting: August 26, 3:45, Fellowship Hall - NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE IN DATE

Wesley Financial Report

6/25: \$7351
 7/9 9960



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 August

The beginning of the next school year is quickly approaching. In order to support our local school children we will continue to collect school supplies throughout the month of August. Please prayerfully consider donating any of the following 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.

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:7

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, August 23.





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.)

In June, the Holy Pail offering went toward the ASP Emergency Fund. We were able to give \$830 to the Mission Team! Thanks for your generosity! The ASP members wanted you to know that \$700 of that amount went immediately to fund a new roof! The rest will be spent as needed during the week. Thanks again!



August

- 2 Mariah Barrett, Philip Wilcox
- 6 Doug & Mariah Barrett
- 10 Arlene Van Horn
- 11 Joyce Hoff
- 15 Gus Sasse
- 17 Ric & Pat Colby
- 18 Colton Mitchell, Candie Eliason
- 21 Paul & Linda Garcia
- 23 Marilyn Mueller, Jazmine Gobeli
- 27 Doug Mitchell
- 31 Maxine Green



It is time to start watching for the school supplies needed for Ingather kits! There is a table in the Fellowship room for you to put your donation. Thank You for your help in filling the School Bags.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3 notebooks - 1 subject spiral | 1 ruler - 12" long with metric |
| 6 pencils – unsharpened | 1 pencil sharpener |
| 1 Eraser - 2" or larger | 1 box 12 colored pencils |



**Grace United Methodist Women
Drive -Thru Fundraiser
Saturday, August 28, 2021
4 PM to 7 PM**

Adults: \$7.00; children 3-10: \$3; Under 3: Free
Sloppy Joe, Potato Salad, Baked Beans & Bar
North door pickup, follow signs!



The Giving Tree

Grace's neighborhood ministry, The Giving Tree, returned on 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 runs 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.

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



Thank you to Iowa Conference UMW for a \$500 grant to help with Grace's Giving Tree Ministry.

Next UMW meeting date: August 17 at 7 PM to finalize fundraiser details. NOTE DATE CHANGE

Tickets are available for our Drive – Thru Fundraiser August 28. Please contact a UMW member to buy tickets or stop in at the Wesley office MWF mornings from 9-12.(see details above)

**AUGUST HOLY PAIL:
CLEANING BUCKETS**



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
August 26, 2021.

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

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







