

August 26, 2021

NEWS AND NOTES FROM GRACE & WESLEY



"EASY on the Lettuce..."

Philippians 2:14-15 "Do all things without grumblings and arguments, that you may be blameless and pure, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world."

My wife and I used to live about a block away from a Jimmy Johns, which meant we ate quite a few sub sandwiches (at least until we got tired of them). I typically ordered mine as is; but, Elizabeth always asked for hers "easy on the lettuce". Sometimes she would get what she asked for; sometimes she would not. On those occasions when her husband forgot to order her sandwich with easy lettuce or the sandwich maker felt the need to go "full on lettuce", she would simply remove the excess lettuce and did so without complaining. She was typically just thankful to have the sandwich. My wife has always been much better than me when it comes to not sweating the small stuff.

We live in a culture in which the customer is theoretically always "right". We are told that we, as customers, "deserve" to get what we ask for/pay for. If we do not, we complain. If our steak isn't just right, we complain and send it back. If we have to wait on the phone for customer service for more than five minutes, we complain (and threaten to take our business elsewhere). If a teacher doesn't give our child or grandchild the attention we think they deserve, we call and complain. Oh, and of course, we complain about all of this over coffee or on Facebook. Complain, complain, complain...

Our society is rife with discontent and complaining and, unfortunately, the Church is not immune. Perhaps over the past several decades the American Church has allowed the secular, consumerist focused culture to lead us to believe it is right to approach church in the same way we approach, say, patronizing a restaurant. "I asked for easy on the lettuce" translates to "*I asked for easy on the liturgy.*" "I asked for extra cheese" translates to "*I asked for extra music I like.*" "I will leave if I have to wait for a table" translates to "*I will leave if the service goes over an hour.*" "I asked for a booth" translates to...well, you get the idea. Complain, complain, complain...

In Philippians 2:14-15, Paul pleads with the church to do all things without complaining. In fact, he says we must do so, lest we become just like the perverse world we live in. We ought to shine, Paul says, without blemish, and refuse to conform to the complaining ways of the world. We have an opportunity each and every day to shine the light of the Lord by expressing gratitude rather than worldly discontent. I invite all of us, including me, to follow my wife's example when it comes to sandwiches. Even if we don't always get what we want, let us embrace gratitude and be thankful we have a sandwich (or church).

Pastor Craig Luttrell



*Sunday School starts
again in September*

GRACE

Sunday School starts at Grace on September 19 at 9:15 AM. Join us after church for hot dogs, chips, bars & beverage!



WESLEY

Sunday School will be resuming for children, 3-years-old on up, on September 12. We will also have a breakfast following worship on that day.

We will begin in the Theater Room with a short video and 2-3 songs after the Children's Message. We will then separate to offer age-relevant activities. Children will be picked up in the upstairs classrooms at 10:15 or we will walk them to Fellowship Hall.

Registration forms will be available in the library area. If you have questions, please call Diane Walrod (641-430-0035) or Katie Koopman (515-290-6936).

We would appreciate donations of prepackaged snacks and containers of juice. If you would be willing to be a substitute teacher, please contact Diane or Katie.



Your church secretary will soon be off on another adventure!

Patty will be out of the office Sept. 1-19.



**Saturday Service resumes at Wesley
on September 11, 5:00 PM!**



Monday, September 6



Wednesday, September 22

Thank you to all who participated in the CAT survey.

We will be communicating the results and plans this fall.

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Rockwell United Methodists are hosting an Outdoor Gospel Concert on Saturday, September 11th!

Gospel music recording artists NEW LEGACY will appear in an outdoor concert at Rockwell United Methodist Church, 303 Monroe Street, Rockwell, on Saturday, September 11th beginning at 6:00pm. Come and enjoy an "Iowa Picnic" supper prior to the concert, from 5:00-6:00pm. Enjoy the meal and concert from your vehicle or bring a lawn chair. A freewill donation is appreciated.

Anyone attending a New Legacy concert should expect to leave with joy and encouragement to keep pressing on! To learn more about NEW LEGACY, visit www.newlegacymusic.com.

The United Methodist Women of First United Methodist Church in Mason City (119 S. Georgia) will hold a "Fall Gathering" on Thursday, September 16 at 7:00 PM.

The program will be "Come Hear the Stories that Grandpa Used to Tell" presented by Al Batt. Dessert will be served.

Reservations are required! Please call the church office (423-4905) or Doris Tieszen (424-5407) by 4:00 PM, Monday, September 13 to reserve your spot.

You are invited to a Prayer Shawl Picnic on Tuesday, September 21 at 10:30 AM in the courtyard of Trinity Lutheran Church (213 N. Pennsylvania Ave). In the event of rain, we will meet inside the church and masks will be required. We will gather for fun, fellowship and inspiration as we encourage one another in the ministry of sharing the love of God with those in need of healing and support. If you have an extra Prayer Shawl or two and would like to donate them to the Spiritual Care ministry at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center, we invite you to bring them with you.

We will need your reservation because of the box lunch that will be provided, thanks to a Thrivent Action Grant. Please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 641-423-0536 no later than Thursday, Sept. 9, so that lunches can be ordered through "The Lunch Box" at Affordables Marketplace. The box lunch will include sandwich, chips, pickle, pasta salad, cookie & water and sandwich choices are: Ham & Swiss, Turkey & Colby, Cheese, or Lettuce Wrap with Ham & Turkey.

The Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery's Annual History Walk will be held on Saturday, Sept. 25.

The afternoon stroll lasts about an hour and involves about a mile of walking through the cemetery featuring stories from the War of 1812, Civil War and WWI. Cost is \$10 and sessions start at 2:30 & 4:00 PM.

Dinner meal of home style chili, cinnamon rolls and all the fixings costs \$10 and runs from 6-7 PM.

The evening event will feature a seated evening of entertainment and learning, with live music from local band "The Hats", old-timey root beer in a history walk mug and stories about how the Prohibition era led to fun and innovation. The event starts at 7:00 PM and the cost is \$20.

Tickets will be limited and available at the cemetery office starting on Sept. 1.

Rockwell St Peter Lutheran Women are sponsoring a Fall Festival on October 16th from 9:00-3:00 at the church parish hall.

There will be vendors, bake sale, silent auction, and lunch 11:00-1:00 (dine in/carry out). The proceeds from the Fall Festival will help support the women's expenses and projects. We invite you to join us for fun and fellowship!



Drive Up Communion will be available in the Wesley parking lot on September 5, 1:30-2 PM.

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.)

Bruce Kaasa, Lowell Cook

Condolences: to the friends and family of Mary Alverson who passed away on 7-30 and to the friends and family of Connie Dieken (Donna Rafferty's mother)..

Thank You:

Thank you for your generous donation to the Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank of the 102 pounds of donations.

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!

Sincerely, *Linda Duvall, Board of Directors, Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank*

We want to express our sincere thank you to all Wesley men and women who helped in any capacity with our recent pulled pork supper. These mission projects would not be possible without the help of many. We served approximately 300 meals, The proceeds are yet to be determined but will be announced when available.

Donna Sutcliffe, Mary Everheart, Susan Dixon & Judy Alman



The Wesley Church Council has voted to replace the 20+ year old furnace and air conditioner at the parsonage. Pastor Craig and family experienced their furnace to stop working a couple of times last winter. If you would like to make a donation for this purchase, please write "parsonage" on the memo line of your check.

We thank you in advance.

Wesley Council Members



Meals on Wheels -- Wesley Church is in charge of delivering Meals on Wheels September 20-25, 2021. We only have one route this time so if anyone is interested in delivering,

please give JoAnn Gerbig a phone call at 641-424-5212. I am looking for more volunteers to put on my list for next year --- we only deliver two weeks out of the year, but usually we are given two routes in May, so you don't have to do anything right now, but if you are interested, please give me a phone call and I will gladly put you down as someone I can contact if there is a need (it doesn't mean your are committed. Thank you to my volunteers that I have been able to count on!!!



September

- 4 Gerald & Meg Brady
- 6 Ron Rezabek
- 7 Katrina Hamilton, Abbi Anderson
- 8 Matt Hammarstedt
- 10 Joseph Mariner
- 11 Kathy Arnold, Jill Alman
- 12 Donna Sutcliffe, Scott & Judy Alman, Todd & Missy Peters
- 13 Jeanette Diekhuis, Kallie Whitehill, Ron & Dawn Ballantyne
- 14 Jenna DeVary
- 15 Jeannette Kloberdanz, Ken Christensen, Elizabeth Luttrell
- 17 Derek Arnold
- 20 Erin Brownmiller
- 21 JoAnn Mozack
- 22 Nancy Christensen, Donna Rafferty, Larry & Delores Bernemann
- 23 Tom Rafferty
- 24 John McCallum
- 25 Destiney Somers
- 26 Rose Tobin
- 27 Lila Johnson
- 28 Gary Howe, Frank & Julie Fox
- 29 Scott Alman
- 30 Sally Lunde



UMW NOTES

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Luke 12:34

Executive Board Meeting - September 2 - 3:30 pm - Fellowship Hall

Esther Circle Meeting - September 16 - 3:45 - Fellowship Hall

Wesley Financial Report

7/26: \$5030
8/11: \$5915



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 September

Our congregation is blessed to have many members who are willing to use God's blessings to them in order to help those in our community who are less fortunate. Please join your church family during the month of September to provide items for the Salvation Army. Their most significant needs for this fall include the following items:



Disinfecting Wipes



Laundry Detergent



Spray Cleaners for Kitchens and Bathrooms

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

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ"

Galatians 6:2

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, September 20.





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.)

Le Ann Meier is now at Kentucky Ridge, Room #102.



September

- 4 Larry Behrends, Hailey Piper, *Dean & Jeannie Johnson*
- 8 Jon Gobeli
- 12 Carly Gobeli
- 13 Carolyn Ryan
- 15 Elizabeth Luttrell
- 16 Caleb Gobeli
- 20 Cookie Schiff
- 21 John Green
- 25 Pat Colby
- 28 Amanda Tynan



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 |

Packer Dackers

WOW—12 year anniversary this year. We miss Randal very much every day. We'd like to thank everyone for your ongoing support to fight this horrible disease. Every year they find ways to extend quality of living and continue to work towards a cure. Please help us fight against ALS! Anything helps—everything is appreciated!
Donna Eldridge, 719 N. Tyler, Mason City IA 50401



The Giving Tree

Grace's neighborhood ministry, The Giving Tree, has returned. 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 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.



Next UMW meeting date: Tuesday, September 7, 6:30 PM

**SEPTEMBER HOLY PAIL:
WOMEN AT THE WELL**



Thank you for continuing to save laundry detergent jugs for our soap ministry. Jugs between 75 oz. and 150 oz. are ideal. Just leave in the front area, in the bin provided, at Grace. We are handing soap out at the Giving Tree and will also start giving to the

Alternative High School again in September. Thanks again for your help!
Kathy Sautter



WOMEN ^{at} the WELL

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
September 23, 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







