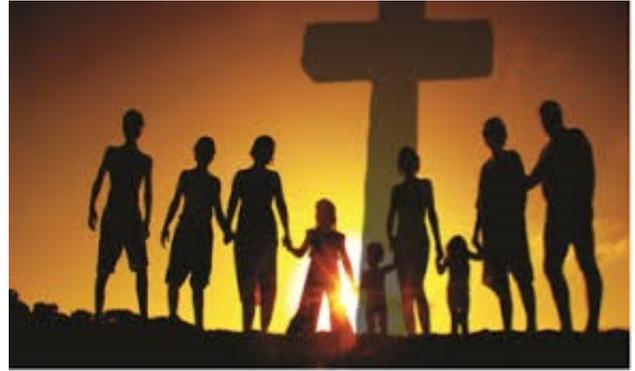


October 21, 2021

NEWS AND NOTES FROM GRACE & WESLEY



“Thankful for Fellowship”

Hebrews 10:24-25 “

24 And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

I didn't much care for Thanksgiving when I was growing up. I always appreciated a couple of days off of school, but the Thanksgiving holiday did not evoke “thanksgiving” in my younger self. For starters, turkey, stuffing, green bean casserole, and cranberries have never been my cup of tea. I came to associate Thanksgiving with being stuck in the house all day as it filled with the aromas of food I didn't care for. (First world problems, I know.)

I also found Thanksgiving to be rather boring. I didn't like watching football, I was never asked to help prepare the food I loathed, and there typically weren't kids my age at our small gatherings. So, I came to associate Thanksgiving with being stuck in a hot, smelly house all day with a bunch of old people. I'm sure I was a very pleasant component of family Thanksgiving gatherings.

As I grew up and started to mature, however, my view of Thanksgiving began to change. No, my taste buds didn't suddenly adapt to Thanksgiving cuisine (it's still not my favorite meal, to say the least); but, I slowly began appreciating the opportunity to connect with those “old people” I used to find so boring. I started listening to their stories. I started realizing they were genuinely interested in hearing about my life and my perspectives. In short, I began to be thankful for the opportunity to fellowship with my family.

Part of the reason I became a pastor was because I recognized the importance of fellowship in my own life and I wanted to be a part of fostering communities of faith toward deeper fellowship with one another. During this Thanksgiving season, which is immediately followed by Advent and then Christmas, I want to encourage all of us to heed the teaching of Hebrews 10 and gather with one another: to encourage one another and to provoke one another to love and good deeds.

We will continue, of course, to have worship services on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings, but we will also be providing opportunities to connect with one another in smaller groups. Take advantage of those opportunities for fellowship, whether it be over refreshments following services, through participation in our Tuesday morning/Wednesday evening Bible Studies, or by engaging with a ministry group.

During this season of Thanksgiving, let us show our thankfulness to God for one another by meeting together!

*If this is not possible for you or if your health is vulnerable to Covid, by all means keep engaging through our online worship services.

Pastor Craig



Come join us sing on December 19 at Grace and Wesley's Sunday services. Plans are being made to form a choir for this date. Our rehearsals will be held at Wesley, 5:00 PM on December 1, 8, and 15. (This precedes the Advent services on those dates.) We will sing a medley of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," "Away in a Manger," and "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice." All skill levels welcome. We want to make a joyful noise for the Christmas season! Call Kathy Sautter for questions at 641-583-0952, or email at wearr@mchsi.com. Come to one or all the rehearsals and we can have fun preparing these carols for worship.



Daylight Savings Time ends on November 7. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour! (This is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.)



Thanksgiving Day: November 25

"Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings."
— William Arthur Ward

"Thanksgiving, man. Not a good day to be my pants."
— Kevin James

"Gratitude, help us to see what is there instead of what isn't."
— Annette Bridges

"I come from a family where gravy is considered a beverage."
— Erma Bombeck

"Thanksgiving is one of my favorite days of the year because it reminds us to give thanks and to count our blessings. Suddenly, so many things become so little when we realize how blessed and lucky we are."
— Joyce Giraud

"Appreciation can change a day, even change a life. Your willingness to put it into words is all that is necessary."
— Margaret Cousins

"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."
— Albert Einstein



Veterans Day: Thursday, November 11

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, November 14.



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.)
Sharon Bosma

Condolences: to the friends and family of Delton Dixon who passed away on October 9, to the friends and family of Lowell Cook who passed away on October 15 and to Sharon Bosma on the loss of her sister.

Thank You:

We would like to thank all of our church family for their hard work making our Drive Thru Swiss Steak Supper another success. It literally would not be possible without everyone giving generously of their money, their time and their talents. We also want to thank the many businesses and the community for their continued support. Sincerely, *Swiss Steak Supper Committee*

We would like to thank Frank & Julie Fox for hosting and all those who organized the Wesley Family Fun night. We all had a great time. The kids had a blast with all o the activities, especially riding on the old fire truck. The great weather, s'mores and fellowship were enjoyed by all. Thank you for all your efforts. *Judy & Scott Alman and Family*



November

- 1 Kyle Harrington
- 2 Abbi (Schupanitz) Kay, Jed & Lisa Vorba
- 4 David & Deb Kranz
- 5 Mel Mitchell, Velma Tschetter, Ralph Hamand
- 7 Beckie Minear
- 11 Abel Adungy
- 12 Ellen Pyle
- 14 Scott Whitehill, Tara Thompson, Coy Kelly
- 16 Erin Phillips, Jon Whitesell
- 17 Jeff & Tracy Skogen
- 18 Jennifer Crooks, Mark & Karen Bull
- 19 Bob Echelbarger, Cheryl Ohden, Shila Trunkhill, Tom & Donna Rafferty
- 21 Hazel Barloon
- 23 Art Ades
- 24 Larry Mozack, Mandi Terlisner
- 25 Christopher Keller
- 26 Ramona Hauan, Marlys Thompson, Gen Lepird, Letha Markwardt
- 27 Barbara DeVary, Roger & Gretchen Peterson, Craig & Elizabeth Luttrell
- 28 Allen Halfpop, Nate Juhl
- 29 Alan Anderson
- 30 Bud King, Vicki Als, Collin Kelly

Wesley's Mission Project for November

With colder weather quickly approaching, our mission focus for November will be on hats, mittens and gently-used coats for elementary and middle school students. Many families within our community are unable to afford these necessities. Let's support them by generously donating winter outside apparel for children. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.



"If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard hearted or tight fisted toward your poor brother. Rather, be open handed and freely lend him whatever he needs." Deuteronomy 15:7-8



UMW NOTES

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 13:13 NIV

Executive Board Meeting: Nov. 4, 3:30 pm

Esther Circle Meeting: Nov. 18, 3:45 pm

Wesley Financial Report

8/27-9/24: \$11,257
9/25-10/18: \$7650





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.)



November

- 4 Donna Eldridge
- 13 Loy Ferleman, Noah Hamilton
- 14 Deb Trebil
- 15 Doni Brecke
- 21 Robert & Judy Duda
- 24 Gus & Margaret Sasse
- 25 Chris Keller
- 27 Craig & Elizabeth Luttrell
- 29 Tim & Kathy Sautter

Thank You:

Grace covered Meals on Wheels the week of October 18. Thanks to Pam Hardy, Jack and Marilyn Mueller for delivering meals that week.

**NOVEMBER HOLY PAIL:
THANKSGIVING BASKETS**



Thanksgiving Baskets

**Blessing Needy Families
in Our Community**

The Holy Pail offering for Thanksgiving food baskets will be taken on November 7 & 14. Please get names to Pat Colby by November 14.



Next UMW meeting date:

General, Tuesday, Nov. 9, 7:00 PM



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!

**Upcoming
COMMUNITY
EVENTS**

Trinity Lutheran Church (213 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Will hold its annual Scandinavian Bazaar on Thursday, November 4 from 8:00 AM-2:00 PM.

Coffee Shop serving Norwegian goodies from 8-10:30 AM, \$8 Scandinavian Meatball luncheon served in two shifts (11:00 AM and 12:30 PM), Scandinavian Boutique selling specialty items, Gift Gallery, Book Nook and Bake Shop. All are welcome!

Please Note: Due to Covid 19, meal tickets need to be purchased in advance. Call 641-423-0536 to make a reservation.

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
 November 21, 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



