

Welcome to Grace United Methodist Church!!

Sunday – August 20, 2023 – 9:00 am



Meditation Verse: *"Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." - Matthew 15:28*

Grace United Methodist Church

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Pastor John Britt

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Check us out on Facebook!

Church Staff:

Pastor
Office Administrator
Children's Ministry
Youth Ministry
Financial Administrator
Custodian
Digital Campus Host
Audio/Visual
Lay Leader
Pianist

John Britt
Phyllis Stevens
Kelly Carter

Cindy Puckett
Barb Walker
Kristin Britt
Steve Hilton
Mike Marsland
Julie Marsland

Order of Worship

*Welcome and Opening Prayer

Call to Worship:

Leader: Beloved disciples, welcome! We gather as people reconciled to one another and God through grace, a gift freely and lovingly given that we do not earn or deserve. We receive the marvelous work of grace in our lives, and we wonder, "Is it fair?"

People: No! God's grace is not fair, but a gift of God's mercy.

Leader: We gather as neighbors who have experienced difficulties of every kind. We feel uncertain, fearful, and overwhelmed, and we wonder, "Is it fair?"

People: No! Our difficulties are not fair, and God's grace meets our uncertainty with mercy and love.

Leader: We gather as a community that knows the suffering of our neighbors. We look at the effects of poverty, food insecurity, and trauma in our neighborhoods, and we wonder, "Is it fair?"

People: No! The suffering of our neighbors is not fair, and God's grace calls us to respond to suffering with mercy and justice.

Leader: We gather as people who question how to live into God's abundance and flourishing in a world built on scarcity and greed, and we wonder, "Is it fair?"

People: Yes! God's life of abundance and flourishing is fair, because it is merciful. May God's grace form us into people of mercy, justice, compassion, and truth-telling as we gather today. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

*Hymn #452 – My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Scriptures: Genesis 45:1-15 and Matthew 15:10-28

*Hymn #2244 - People Need the Lord

Kids Message

Message: "Is It Fair?"

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

- Song: Lead Me to the Cross

Morning Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Announcements

*Closing Songs:

- Better Is One Day
- Lay Me Down

*Blessing

(*Please stand if you are able.)

GPS – Grow, Pray, Study

1) *Grow*. When and where have you recently felt God's love leading you to love another? How would responding to this help you to grow in your faith?

2) *Pray*. Who do you know who might be saying "It's not fair" right now in life? Pray for them each day this week!

3) *Study*. Read Matthew 16:5-12. How does this teaching of Jesus reinforce and add to the teaching that we covered in Matthew 15:10-20?

Next Week's Lectionary Readings:

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalms 124

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

To go a little deeper
with these readings
each day this week,
please go to:
pastorjohnb.org

Next Sunday's Message: : "The Deliverance of the Lord" - Isaiah speaks to a people who are broken, defeated, living in exile - far away from the temple, from their homes, from God. In this place of desperation they develop a scarcity mentality. Isaiah speaks words of abundance and blessing. God will turn the desert into a garden. We live too often with a scarcity mentality. To combat this we must envision what God might have for us, for our community, for our world. Turning to Matthew's gospel, Jesus asks who people say he is. Peter declares Jesus to be the Messiah, the son of the living God. But Peter is really answering these questions: Who am I to you? Where do I fit in your life? That is really what Jesus asks us too. Will we open ourselves to abundant love, to the deliverance that leads to true life?

This Week at Grace

- Wednesday - 1:30 PM – Midweek Chat – Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday - 5:30 PM – Discipleship Small Group
- Thursday - 5:30 PM – Men's Group – Fellowship Hall
- Friday - 6:30 AM – Women's Study – Fellowship Hall
- Sunday - 1:00 PM – Youth & Family Time & Bar-B-Que

Upcoming Special Events

- August 25 & 26 – 8 AM – 5 PM Rummage Sale
- September 9 – 9 AM – Food Preservation Workshop
- September 10 – 5 PM – Parking Lot Worship
- September 30 – 10 AM – Imagine Day
- October 27 – 5 PM – Fall Family Festival

Announcements:

Our August Mission of the Month is for UMCOR kits.

Please consider signing up to serve on a Sunday morning. Simply choose a Sunday that is convenient for you and sign up on the sheets opposite the drinking fountains! Thank you for serving.

May God Bless you throughout the coming week!!