

MARCH 2021

# GRACE NEWS

*Connecting to our community  
through our Chimes Newsletter*

Spring  
Forward  
1 Hour



Save the Date:  
MARCH 14, 2021

March 14, 2021 is the date to remember. If you forget “your job”, changing clocks, you will be late to all of your appointments.

It is: Spring Forward time.....Change those clocks ahead. Thought a couple of fun facts will make it easier to lose that hour of sleep:

1. It is daylight saving time Not daylight savings time.
2. Farmers did not lobby for daylight saving time, the candy makers and fast food were in favor.
3. BBQ industry strongly favors DST which leaves more time for grilling
4. Chosen to start at 2:00am because there are fewer trains running. This also works for Shift Workers
5. The Monday after DST, there is more cyberloafing during work hours due to lack of sleep and focus after the time change.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**June 6-11, 2021 from 5:30 pm- 8:00pm**

At Vacation Bible School: Knights of North Castle, kids will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they go on a quest in search of the King's Armor. They will become Knights and discover how to serve God and God's mission for their lives.

Pre-K through 5th Grade students are invited to participate and Youth are invited to volunteer.

### SAVE THE DATE

At this time we are planning to meet in person in a small group setting, but are making preparations for a similar program virtually if needed.

## MESSAGES FROM PASTOR JIM



### The Path to Return

Our Grace Church Council will meet on Thursday, March 4.

Among the agenda items will be a consideration of the possibility of returning to worship on March 21.

Please watch our Grace website, Facebook page and your email for announcements regarding this possible return.



## Lenten Worship Series Continues



You're invited to join us for worship\* each Sunday throughout Lent as we focus on the truth that each of us is created a precious and holy vessel of embodied love.

We have been through a harrowing year which, for many of us, has shattered our sense of wholeness...body, mind, and spirit...like a glass vessel fractured into pieces.

In this Lenten "season of recovery" for our physical, communal, mental, intellectual and environmental health, we'll explore the healing narratives of Jesus which tell of God's presence with us even as we suffer. We'll be reminded that we can begin a journey toward making something beautiful from that which is seemingly broken.

\*You may worship with us at 10 a.m. each Sunday via KSCJ radio and Facebook Live.



### RADIO SPONSORSHIP GRACE SUNDAY WORSHIP BROADCAST ON RADIO STATION KSCJ CHANNEL 1360

If you are unable to join us for worship on Sunday mornings or if you know of someone who is unable to attend, please listen to KSCJ frequency 1360 AM & 94.9 FM to hear a live radio broadcast of the 10am Sunday worship service each Sunday. You can also go to [www.kscj.com](http://www.kscj.com) to listen to it live on the web. If you would like to help sponsor a Sunday broadcast, please contact the church office at 276-3452 or send in your donation and we will put your name on the list. Each broadcast costs \$125 to air. Your donations are greatly appreciated.



Our Konversations group, which gathers via Zoom each Sunday at 11:15 a.m. is going strong. We welcome EVERYONE to come be a part as we check in with one another, talk a bit about the worship experience we just shared, then move into a topic which emerges from the participants.

You'll find the Zoom link for Konversations on our Grace Facebook page as well as our website. Not a computer user? We can help you connect with Konversations via your cell phone. Just contact the church office for information.

## My Confession...I Now Understand More About Confession!

In this season of Lent, we're called to look deep inside our hearts, minds and spirits and to intentionally explore our relationship with God. A part of that focus often takes the form of confession. I've recently been confronted with thoughts from two deeply faithful folks who have helped me expand my concept of confession.

Dr. Marcia McFee is an author, worship designer and leader, professor, preacher and artist. She is the Creator and Visionary of Worship Design Studio, an online resource which provides education, training and worship series for congregations across the country.

In the materials I'm using as part of our Lenten Worship Series, Dr. McFee writes, "The Latin origins of the word 'confess' is to 'study and acknowledge'". Lent, she says, is a "season of studying how we can be a healing presence in our community. To do this, we acknowledge our need to restore our own Holy Vessels". I've never before unpacked the word "confess" to find "study" and "acknowledgement" tucked inside...but I like that understanding. For me, it takes "confession" beyond a basic..."I'm not everything I should be" to a fuller exploration. It leads me deeper, and that's a good thing...especially now.

Seeing "confession" as "studying and acknowledging" moves me beyond simply listing what I've done "wrong" or the ways I've not followed God's will and way.

I think I've, too often, almost seen confession as a "taking out the garbage" kind of action. "Leave it on the curb and forget about it", versus, "Why am I producing so much garbage?"

To stick with the "garbage" metaphor, understanding confession as "Studying how we can be a healing presence" and "acknowledging our need to restore our own Holy Vessels" leads me toward spiritual "composting and recycling", you might say.

Both of those are FAR more work than "leaving it on the curb and (trying) to forget about" any deficiencies in my relationship with God, but they promise to lead to results which are much more beneficial to me and my community.

I've also been helped along in my understanding of "confession" this Lent by the writings of Rev. Matt Rawle, author of "The Grace of Les Miserables", one of the books we're studying throughout Lent.

I've begun describing Rawle's writings as "a book in every chapter". New-to-me insights and beautiful expressions of classic ideas fill every page.

In chapter 1, Rev. Rawle writes, "When we daily confess to God, are we only supposed to admit our shortfalls?...We also have to be honest about the ways in which Christ has been working through us." Those two sentences make two very important points. Note that he says "DAILY confess". How many of us pray every day? And how many of us might include confession in our DAILY prayers?

I like that reminder that confession should be DAILY, but something else Rev. Rawle said got even more of my attention...In confession, he writes, "We also have to be honest about the ways in which Christ has been working through us."

This is SO beautiful...and so RIGHT! Our prayers of confession should NOT simply be focused on what is MISSING in our lives of discipleship, confession should ALSO be a time when, as we talk with God, we "confess" all the good God is doing in our lives...and all the good we are doing for others and God's world because of the love, inspiration, giftedness and strength God has given us.

### Speaking of "confession"...

In our other Lenten study, "The Walk" by Rev. Adam Hamilton, participants were recently discussing some prayer formulas...those suggested by Rev. Hamilton and others we may use.

One prayer formula mentioned by several of us in that Zoom discussion is the "ACTS+" prayer formula. This formula suggests we first express our Adoration of God, then we Confess the ways we fall short in living out our faith, then we give Thanks and, finally, we spend time in Supplication, that is "asking for".

The "plus" in the ACTS+ formula is because it splits Supplication in two...we share prayers of Intercession (praying on behalf of others) and prayers of Petition (praying on behalf of ourselves).

## METHODIST Lectionary

THIRD  
SUNDAY  
OF LENT



March 7, 2021

- [Exodus 20:1-7](#)
- [Psalm 19 \(UMH 750\)](#)
- [1 Corinthians 1:18-25](#)
- [John 2:13-22](#)

FOURTH  
SUNDAY  
OF LENT



March 14, 2021

- [Numbers 21:4-9](#)
- [Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22](#)
- [Ephesians 2:1-10](#)
- [John 3:14-21](#)

FIFTH  
SUNDAY  
OF LENT



March 21, 2021

- [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)
- [Psalm 51:1-12](#)
- [Hebrews 5:5-10](#)
- [John 12:20-33](#)

  
*Palm Sunday*

March 28, 2021

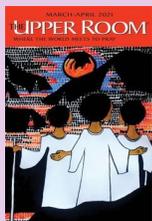
Liturgy of the Palms:

- [Mark 21:1-11](#)
- [Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29](#)

Liturgy of the Passion:

- [Isaiah 50:4-9a](#)
- [Psalm 31:9-16](#)
- [Philippians 2:5-11](#)

UPPER ROOM COPIES



NOW AVAILABLE



It's a new year, and maybe you have some new info you'd like to share with us! Even if you've shared with us before, would you please take a moment to fill out one of the options? We especially want to celebrate with you during birthdays and anniversaries, so don't forget to include those! You are important to us. In order to help us take care of you, we need to keep your information as up to date as possible. GRACE UMC is continuing to improve communication within the church. One of the tools we would like to fully

utilize is our ACS database.

Having the church database updated with each person's information will aid in better communication for Pastor Jim, staff and for church members.

<http://www.gracesiouxcity.org/membership-updates.html>

  
*Birthdays  
of the Month*

90 Plus Birthdays

Violet Sly 3-17-1928

Elaine Seubert 3-20-1929

50+ Year Anniversaries

Mike & Linda Cadwell 3-18-1967



FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED

The food Pantry is looking for some muscle.

A couple times a month the Food Bank of Siouxland delivers 3 – 4 pallets of food to the church.



We would like to make a list of folks we could contact to help with the unloading and shelving of food into the church's pantry and freezers.

Food deliveries are done during the day, usually late afternoon, but occasionally in the morning.

For more information or to be added to the volunteer list contact, Marcia Eriksen at 712-490-8616 or email her at [eriksenmp@gmail.com](mailto:eriksenmp@gmail.com).



American  
Red Cross

"Thank you so much for opening up Grace United Methodist Church and helping those affected by the apartment fire on January 24th. I appreciate everything you and your church provided for those tenants in need."

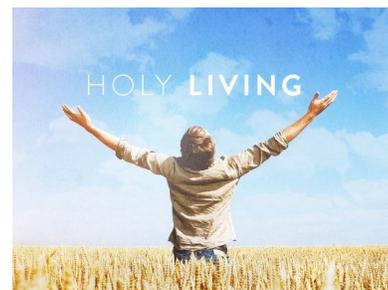
Sincerely, Jen Meyer/Red Cross



### Middle & High Sunday School:

Where students may find

thought-provoking activities designed to help them understand Scripture and apply it to their individual experiences. Our Sunday School curriculum is available virtually online via our Grace UMC website, found under: Christian Education; Youth Ministry; Middle & High School Sunday School Lessons.

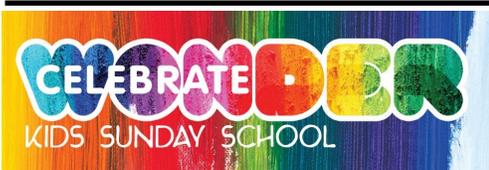


### Upcoming March Lessons:

If you would like to receive our Middle & High School weekly newsletter, contact us at [christianed@gracesiouxcity.org](mailto:christianed@gracesiouxcity.org).

**March 7<sup>th</sup>**  
Living as Holy People  
**March 14<sup>th</sup>**  
The Pursuit of Holiness

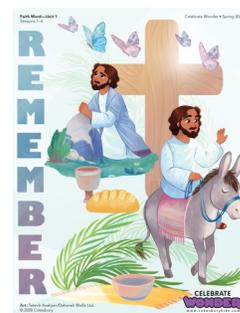
**March 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Holy Body  
**March 28<sup>th</sup>**  
The Path to Holiness



### CELEBRATE WONDER SPRING EDITION

New materials with our new Faith word will be sent in the weekly Sunday School newsletters for each child. If you would like to receive at home materials please contact our office.

As you make space for God in your home this Spring season, Grace will provide you with the resources you need to foster your child's spiritual formation. Each week we provide a children's newsletters with lesson activities from March 2021– May 2021 to share God's truths with your child at your pace.



Here are some upcoming lessons for March

**March 7**  
Jesus Washes Feet  
John 13:1-17

**March 14**  
The Last Supper  
Luke 22:14-20

**March 21**  
Praying in the Garden  
Luke 22: 14-20

**March 28**  
Jesus Enters Jerusalem  
Matthew 21: 1-11



For Children's and Youth Ministry we have opened up for Lent in a Box Journey. Each week in our Sunday School newsletters, we have included family based activities for reflection. We began Wednesday February 17th for Ash Wednesday and will continue through Easter. If you would also like to participate you can find Lent in a box 2021 under Christian Education on our Grace Website.

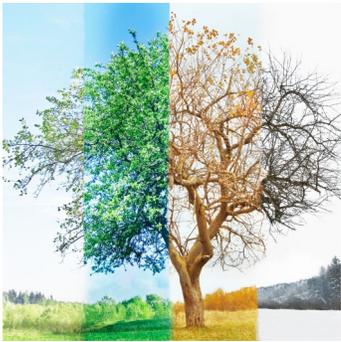


WELCOME TO  
 FAITH FAMILY CLUB!  
 Combining Spirituality,  
 Community and Fun

You are welcome to be part of Faith Family Club. Children will learn about God's love for them and about the Bible, and they'll have fun

**March Spiritual Activities & Practices**

The purpose is to enjoy spending quality time together through creative & intellectual projects, while sparking family & faith based discussions. These activities are just suggestions. We encourage your family to do at least two within a month's time span.



**Outdoor:** Tree Gazing— Here is a simple thing you can do anytime you are out and about with your family. Whether you're in the car, going for a walk or even just in the front or backyard. Look at the trees outside. Notice how they look. Either with or without snow on them. Are they starting to bloom? Discuss your favorite type of tree and why.

Outdoor spiritual connection: Consider the beauty in the small things in life. How trees are strong with roots that extend deep into the earth. Are we not like trees? Some of us may look much different than one another, yet we are strong when we dig our roots into our faith in God. Through Christ we are strong like trees and can withstand anything. Compare mankind with trees & the Christian connection.

**Artistic:** Appreciation Crosses— Each day during the month of March, draw a cross and have every member of your family write a word on/around the cross describing what they are appreciative of that day. You can certainly repeat what you are thankful for, more than once.



Artistic spiritual connection: The purpose of this is to acknowledge and give thanks to God every day during Lent for what we have in our lives. Each time you write a word, remember that you are thankful to Christ for giving up his life so that we may live sin free and able to do the things/be with the people in life we care about most.



**Movie:** The Wizard of Oz— During the month of green (St. Patrick's Day); why not watch the movie with an emerald city. This 1939 film is truly a classic, having been an influential piece of cinema and pop culture for over 80 Years. You are sure to be singing along with this merrily band of misfits as they stride on their way to see the 'Wonderful Wizard of Oz'.

Movie spiritual connection: After watching, think about where in this film you see God's work. Is it the man behind the curtain? The friendships made along the way? Discuss as a family your thoughts.

**Innovative:** Love Letters— As a family, write several letters to those whom you love, appreciate and have missed within the last year. This can be family, friends, church or community members. Write what you miss the most about them and how/why your family appreciates them. Feel free to provide any updates on your lives and to write a small prayer for them too.



Innovative spiritual connection: The reason for these letters is that people will be likely reminiscing on the last year, as it is coming up on one whole year since the pandemic has broken out and altered our way of living. These letters should allow you to connect with those that maybe you don't get to see or communicate with often, as well as offer a chance to provide insight into your family's life.

Please send our Christian Education Team ([christianed@gracesiouxcity.org](mailto:christianed@gracesiouxcity.org)) pictures of your family doing any of the Monthly Faith Family Club Spiritual Activities.

**Faith Family Club; Where Our Strength is United**



## OUT IN THE COMMUNITY:

Turn your neighborhood into a bird-watching hub

Involving animals in your nature quest is a great way to get everyone excited to participate. It can also be a great way to give everyone a mental health boost. Studies show that bird watching can reduce the effects of anxiety.

Turn your neighborhood into a bird-watching hub by learning about your feathering neighbors and crafting a feeder or house for them.

You can find all kinds of bird feeder recipes online, like this classic made with toilet paper roll & peanut butter, as well as all sorts of fun birdhouse crafts, whether you make them out of popsicle sticks and string or paint a more elaborate home for you.

**Update:** Many have asked for alternatives to peanut butter. Some suggestions I have received: sunflower butter, almond butter, or soy butter.

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Using a popsicle stick, cover outside of toilet paper roll with peanut butter.
2. Roll the peanut butter covered toilet paper roll in the bird seed until covered.
3. Thread a piece of twine through the toilet paper roll and knot.
4. Hang where birds can enjoy.

## Holy Week Activity Day- FUN

Sunday **March 28th** is Palm Sunday; the beginning of Holy Week and the last week of Lent. We invite you and your family to join us after Palm Sunday worship for Crafts and Games in our Grace UMC Backyard, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

We will provide a premade kit of Crafts, and snacks for each day of Holy Week and planned social distanced outdoor games for Preschool– 5th Grade Students. Families are invited to share with their children in this special time together and Youth are encouraged to volunteer as extra hands.

Whether you worship in person or online, we want all members of the church to feel connected and in community with each other. Kits are available for Pick up upon registration on our Grace Website or by contacting [Christianed@gracesiouxcity.org](mailto:Christianed@gracesiouxcity.org)



Watch our Weekly Lessons on our Channel: *Grace United Methodist Church*



Follow us on Instagram

[gracesiouxcity](https://www.instagram.com/gracesiouxcity)



Like us on our private Facebook for Parents and students

Grace UMC Youth Morningside

# CLASSROOM Wish List

## We are seeking Donations for our Classrooms!!

To ensure that we do not receive more donations than needed, Please contact us at [christianed@gracesiouxcity.org](mailto:christianed@gracesiouxcity.org) or (712-276-3452) BEFORE committing to any of the following church contributions:

### Floor Pillows & Curtains—

We have received donations of fabric, but if you are willing to sew & create with these patterns, please let us know.

We are looking for medium to large sized floor pillows for our K – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade classroom; & Curtains for our Gathering room (contact us for measurements).

### Bean Bag Chairs—

We are looking for gently used Bean Bag Chairs for our 3-5<sup>th</sup> Grade classroom. Preferably size: large.

### Storage Tubs—

These will be used for our UMYTT (United Methodist Youth Talent Troupe) to store Costumes, props, etc.



## To Our Previous Year's Sunday School Teachers:

We miss you like crazy!! It's been one heck of a year since this pandemic took hold of our lives, but we wanted to say that we are so thankful of you! We have missed your assistance, guidance and passion for teaching in the last year. Although it's been rough on many of us, we look forward to a time when we can gather again in person and share our love of Christ through education & enrichment. Till then, know that you are in our thoughts and prayers & we are more than appreciative of all the hard work you've contributed to our Christian Education team.

# GRACE UMC'S 2021 VARIETY "HOUR"

Thank you to all of those who were involved in our Grace UMC Variety "Hour".

The talent in our community is extraordinary and we cannot wait until we can share those talents again in person. The video can be found on our Grace UMC YouTube Page.



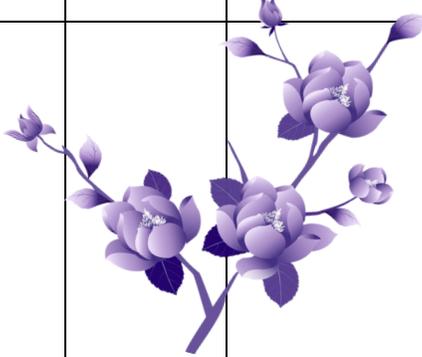
Flocking our Families with Flamingos has been so much fun for our Christian Ed team to stay in touch and reach out to our community.

After our last freeze the ground was just to frozen to do the next chosen household. We will be "Flocking" our next family in March. Stay tuned.



# March 2021

Spring Forward March 14, 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 9:00AM-Noon Food Pantry	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:00AM-Noon Food Pantry	<b>4</b> 6:30PM-Church Council	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 1:00PM-Lenten Study "The Grace of Les Miserables"
<b>7</b> 10:00AM Worship 11:15 AM Konversations 1:00PM-Lenten Study "The Grace of Les Mis- erables"	<b>8</b> 9:00AM-Noon Food Pantry	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00AM-Noon Food Pantry	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 1:00PM-Lenten Study "The Grace of Les Miserables"
<b>14</b> 10:00AM Worship 11:15AM Konversations 1:00PM-Lenten Study "The Grace of Les Mis- erables" 	<b>15</b> 9:00AM-Noon Food Pantry 7:00PM- Christian Education Mtg	<b>16</b> 7:00-"The Walk" Lenten Study	<b>17</b> 9:00AM-Noon Food Pantry 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Chimes are Due	<b>20</b> 1:00PM-Lenten Study "The Grace of Les Miserables"
<b>21</b> (Possible In-Person) 10:00AM Worship 11:15AM Konversations 1:00PM-Lenten Study "The Grace of Les Mis- erables"	<b>22</b> 9:00AM-Noon Food Pantry	<b>23</b> 7:00-"The Walk" Lenten Study	<b>24</b> 9:00AM-Noon Food Pantry	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 1:00PM-Lenten Study "The Grace of Les Miserables"
<b>28</b> 10:00AM Worship 11:15AM Konversations 11:30AM-1:00PM Holy Week Activity Day 1:00PM-Lenten Study "The Grace of Les Mis- erables" 	<b>29</b> 9:00AM-Noon Food Pantry	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9:00AM-Noon Food Pantry			



**SUNDAY SERMONS**

If you were unable to join us for worship or if you would like to view a past sermon, they are available by going to the Grace website [www.gracesiouxcity.org](http://www.gracesiouxcity.org), and found in the drop-down menu under Grace-filled Worship.

**Special points of interest:**

**Church email**

[sjohnson@gracesiouxcity.org](mailto:sjohnson@gracesiouxcity.org)

**Church Website**

[www.gracesiouxcity.org](http://www.gracesiouxcity.org)

**Church Phone**

712-276-3452

**Church Address**

1735 Morningside Ave.

Sioux City IA 51106

Live Radio Broadcast

KSCJ frequency 1360AM &

94.9FM at 10 AM

**DO YOU HAVE FACEBOOK?**

Search: Grace UMC Sioux City and join today. Watch for weekly updates and information regarding worship services and events at Grace UMC.

Facebook Live  
10 AM Worship

Grace United Methodist will be having a curbside food pantry available on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Look for the signs and a volunteer will come with a bag for your family. No need to get out of your car.

Donations can also be received at this time. Please contact the church office with any questions.



*Welcome Spring*

**CARING THROUGH GRACE**

To keep us aware of your needs while in the hospital, please state "Grace United Methodist" as your religious preference during admittance. If there is someone in need of prayer or if someone should be removed from the prayer list, Please contact Betty Watkins at 712-276-6721 or email at [betwat3a@gmail.com](mailto:betwat3a@gmail.com)



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Grace United Methodist Church



Instagram

Follow us on Instagram  
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Like us on our private Facebook for Parents and students.

Grace UMC Youth Morningside