

June 2020



THE  
*Welcome  
Back*  
EDITION

# WORDS OF GRACE

*Monthly Newsletter*

## *Inside the Issue*

### A MESSAGES FROM THE STAFF...

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### MINISTRY SCHEDULES

We are currently in the process of re-configuring our ministry schedules at this time. To assist your ministry leaders, please contact them with your availability.

### MISSIONS HIGHLIGHT

We are saddened by the news that **Camp of the Woods** will not be able to open this summer. This affects many here at Grace as well. Please keep COTW in your prayers!

## JUNE HIGHLIGHTS...

- June 1 - Elders meeting, 6:30pm
- June 2 - Tuesday Women's Study continues, 9:00am
- June 3 - FDL Pastors Group meets @ Grace, 11:00am
- June 4 - Men's Coffee & Fellowship resumes, 8:00am  
Life Recovery Bible Study resumes, 10:00am
- June 6 - Budget presentation in Sanctuary, 6:30pm  
Budget presentation via Zoom, 7:00pm
- June 7 - Budget presentation in Sanctuary, 11:00am
- June 13 - Budget Q&A in Sanctuary, 6:30pm
- June 14 - Budget Q&A in Sanctuary, 11:00am
- June 20 - Budget Q&A in Sanctuary, 6:30pm
- June 21 - Budget Q&A in Sanctuary, 11:00am
- June 25 - Homeschool Drama Presentation, 7:00pm
- June 28 - Budget Ballots are due today!

From the rising  
of the sun to  
its setting,



The name of  
the Lord is to be  
praised.

Psalm 113:3



## PRAYER & ENCOURAGEMENT CONNECTIONS CONTINUE!

- Mondays at noon
- Tuesdays at 6:30pm
- Wednesdays at noon
- Thursdays at 6:30pm
- Fridays at 7:30am
- Saturdays at noon

The easiest way to access these Zoom gatherings is to go to the homepage of the website, hover your cursor over the "Contact Us" tab and click on the "Prayer & Encouragement" tab. Use the password **ConnectwGRACE** to access the links for each time!

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR BARRY

.....

*Dear Grace Family,*

How are you? I mean, really, how are you doing in light of all that we have gone through, personally, as a family, and as a church family throughout the last three months? When I ask the question, I am not expecting the usual response of, "I'm fine", unless of course you really are. There is a lot I would like to share with you concerning how the last three months have impacted my life, my family, and our church family that I would rather be doing in person. Sharing some food and drink and just sharing life, listening to you as you share, and then sharing my experiences with you while you listen... realizing how these last three months have changed us.

I have two thoughts I would like to share with you, that I have had a lot of time to think about over the past three months.

**First thought...**It is not often in life that you and I get a 'do-over'. It seems to me that as we ponder how we will emerge from our COVID-19 quarantines and lock-downs, we will have a rare chance at a kind of 'do-over'. What God has been revealing about our lives during this time is an important discipline for us to make use of. Spending time evaluating how we re-engage in the activities that ceased during this period of time is an opportunity for a do-over. As life gradually returns to a more normal way of life (pre-COVID-19), we will have to decide how we choose to the lessons we have learned, so that life can reflect God's perspective on our personal lives, family life, and church family life. I wish it was possible to hear from all of you about this, so I could pray with you and for you, and encourage you to make the changes God has revealed to you.

*What will our do-overs look like?*

**Second thought...**Be aware of our enemy whose schemes include dividing people from one another. As we resume in-person gatherings, there is the potential for division, in which we will be tempted to reflect the division that we already see in the culture at large...especially in the political arena. God's heart is for unity. I believe, by God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit working to unify us in ways our flesh resists, the opportunity is there for us to be a counter-cultural community... an example for the rest of the larger community. So how can we move forward in unity? I see two ways:

1. Love others by not passing judgment on how they have been responding to COVID-19, and how they plan on re-entering into public life, including public worship gatherings. Romans 14 is a good passage to guide us, as we seek to love one another concerning how and when each of us chooses to re-enter back into public spaces again. Extending grace and understanding to one another is how we become a counter-cultural community.
2. Show humility and patience, which are necessary to maintain unity. We need to practice humility and patience by acknowledging that we do not know everything in terms of what the science is or is not, as it relates to how we respond to this virus. Everything is not obvious. So we need to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger as James 1:19 says...To practice being a non-anxious presence with one another by not attacking or being overly emotional as we listen to one another. Let's show humility and patience as we seek to be a counter-cultural community

These are some of my thoughts for now. Again, I wish we had the opportunity to talk about them in person. I look forward to being together again very soon.

Love,



### **CORPORATE PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES:**

Sunday mornings at 8:30am  
Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm  
Wednesday AM Men's prayer at 6:30am.

*All meet at  
Grace Church  
building*

# A Note From Pastor Grant

Dear Grace Family,

I was recently reminded of a Gospel Project lesson I shared with the children a few weeks ago.

In the lesson we heard that the Apostle Paul was warned by the Holy Spirit that he was going to face persecution and imprisonment (Acts 20:23; 21:12). Yet, in spite of these warning, Paul pursued God and continued to preach the message of hope in Jesus.

Look at these words from Paul:

"I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God".

- Acts 20:24

We need to remember that Jesus sent a warning to Paul, that he would "suffer for the sake of my Name" (Acts 9:16). We also need to remember that Jesus warned His disciples that they would have trouble in this life (John 16:33).

We must embrace the reality that our relatively easy walk with Christ might not be easy in the future.

Yet, in the words of Missionary Jim Elliot:

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose".

The One Who gave His all for the glory of His Father, calls us to do the same. Let us press-in to Him and continue to do what is right in accordance with His Word. As it says in Galatians 6:9,

"let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up".

Blessings in Christ,

*PASTOR GRANT*



## WE NEED YOU!

Are you able to help fill some gaps during this time of re-opening and resuming regular ministries?

We recognize that not everyone is ready or able to come back to the church building for worship and ministry opportunities at this time. While we respect their choices, it does leave some areas and roles which need to be filled.

This would be a excellent time for you to help out, try out a new ministry, or just expand your experiences!

We are in need of people to step into the following areas, maybe just for the summer months, or longer if they desire:

- Children's Church Teachers and Helpers
- Nursery Staff
- Ushers & Greeters
- Worship Technology Roles

Please contact PG or the church office if you are interested in helping out!

## We Need You!

Due to the adjustments required by our expanded worship service times, we are in need of additional people to serve in all areas of worship ministries, especially in our worship technology roles. If you would like to volunteer, please let Pastor Grant know (948-6373). Training will be provided as needed.

## A Note From Pastor Brad

*Dear Grace Family,*

Well it seems as though summer is finally here!

Some good news I get to share in this note is that we have started our Summer Youth Meeting schedule without any hitches, complications or disasters. Our first informal meeting happened this past Sunday (May 24th) and we will continue to meet through the summer. I haven't as yet planned into the future (covid shy!) other than to say that we will meet in two groups this summer season.

Middle school, that is soon to be grades 6-8, will meet from 5:00 - 6:30 pm. High school, soon to be grades 9-12, will meet from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. [I am not wanting to change the group organization for reasons of keeping our numbers smaller.]

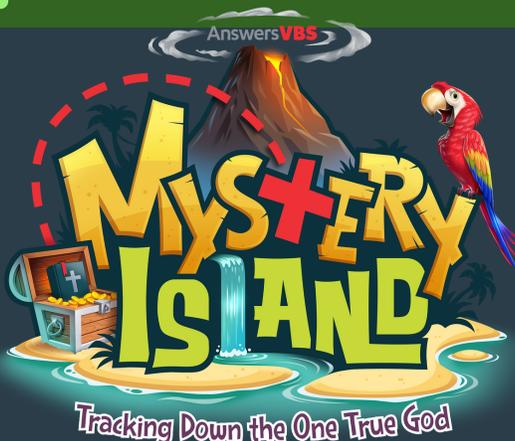
For our group outings we will try to keep them, weather permitting, as open air as possible, like we did this past Sunday. We are also trying to limit food contact in groups by providing pre-packaged items or having only one person serve food. Stay tuned for more news of those events when they are organized.

Canada plans have unfortunately been postponed for the summer for our group. The camp is unable to take overnight visitors until August 31st (as things stand now) so we won't be planning any trips there until next year.

Having said all that, I am still looking forward to all that God has ahead of us this summer. It is a unique opportunity to develop friendships with each other and I would encourage you to use each opportunity that you are given to connect with each other in building those friendships.

*Brad*

## GET READY FOR AN ISLAND ADVENTURE!



*Preparations and planning are under way for this year's Vacation Bible Camp happening August 3rd-7th!*

**INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING OR TAKING PART?**

Contact the Church Office:  
[office@gracechurchfdl.org](mailto:office@gracechurchfdl.org) or  
Brad: [rutherford@gracechurchfdl.org](mailto:rutherford@gracechurchfdl.org)



# A NOTE FROM THE CUSTODIAN

*Mark Jopling*



## **Dear Grace Family,**

As we all know, the past few months have been challenging for all of us, but by God's grace, He is leading us through this COVID-19 pandemic. My prayer is that He will continue to bless us, his church family, and keep us safe.

Having said that, I would like to address what I have been doing at the church building to keep us as safe as possible. I have sanitized all common areas in the building, i.e. bathrooms, tables, chairs, doorknobs, light switches, and many other areas and things, and will continue to do so. We are putting additional cleaning protocols in place as we move forward to having the building occupied once again. As we look to re-open the church building, I would ask for help from you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, to assist in keeping the building as clean and sanitized as possible. How can you help? Please make sure all garbage and tissues are placed in the wastebaskets and trash cans, use hand sanitizer or wash your hands regularly and often, be aware of what you touch and not things needlessly, be careful around each other, respect others and their space (physical distancing), covering mouths when coughing or sneezing, but most of all by showing the love of Jesus to each other.

It will be very important that you email the church office if you plan to use the building, so that we can be sure things are prepared for your meeting and put you on the calendar. There are instructions and supplies available in the meeting rooms so groups can clean up when they finish, and the room will be ready for the next group or meeting.

You will notice that there are washing and hand sanitizing stations set up around the church building. Please use them when necessary. As we fight this battle together, I hope we would let our faith guide us, and not allow fear to overtake us. Our God is in control of all things, and by His will, He will get us through this.

*May the God of endurance  
and encouragement grant  
you to live in such harmony  
with one another, in accord  
with Christ Jesus,*

*Romans 15:5 ESV*

**In Christ's love,**

*Mark Jopling*

## **CAN YOU HELP?**

We are looking for a team of people to help clean and sanitize the sanctuary after the Saturday evening service, to prepare it for worship on Sunday morning. Please contact Mark or the office if you are interested!

Hello from

# THE OFFICE



**DEAR GRACE FAMILY,**

Although you probably receive lots of communication from me, it is not often something from me personally! Well, since we, as a staff, are each sharing a little something this month, I have an opportunity to share some reflections from my perspective as we look forward to the days ahead-hopeful that some things return to 'normal', while at the same time praying that some things do not!

As many of you know, I have been working primarily from home these past few months...since March 9th to be exact! I began this whole "Safer at Home" time early, self-isolating due to possible contact with COVID 19, which thankfully did not develop into an infection. Since then, I have been spending much of my work hours preparing communications to you about what to expect, how to proceed, what we are doing, and how it is changing - almost exclusively related to Grace Church and the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Pastor Barry, in his note to you, refers to a 'Do-Over'... but for me, some of my tasks during this time have been a 'Do-Finally'! I have been wanting to update the church database with complete information for the entire Grace Family since I began working here in the Fall of 2014. (Has it really been that long?!) Thanks to this change of routine, I am happy to say that we now have up-to-date information for our church family, that I can print mailing labels quickly and accurately, and (most exciting!) with a few clicks, I can print church directories, which include cellphones and emails, without having to reformat the whole document every time there is an addition or correction. It will look a little different but will be easy to use, and ready for pick up in the coming days (Hopefully, we can get some picture directory updates to you soon as well!)



While working at home, my four-legged supervisor has kept me on my toes, insisting that we get out for a walk several times a week, and making sure that I am notified when someone is at the door, or he whenever needs food, water, or to go out! I'm pretty sure he is not looking forward to my returning to the church office!

I, however, am looking forward to returning to the office soon, because I miss seeing all of you, and I realize it has been an inconvenience for the pastors, who have graciously been picking up the slack, but due to an opportunity to spend an upcoming weekend with my kids and grandchild, I will continue to work from home for a little longer. Our family has asked my husband and me to limit our outside contact as much as possible, so they will feel comfortable being with us, and I want to honor their feelings...and be able to spend some time with them!! Thank you for your patience and understanding with all of us during this time. We can be thankful that although life as we knew it has changed, our God is unchanging in His love and faithfulness...and on that we can depend!

Blessings to you, as you re-emerge from your cocoons...let us all spread our wings again and be uplifted by the hope and promise of life with Jesus!

Shalom,

*Carol Blain*

## HELLO GRACE FAMILY,

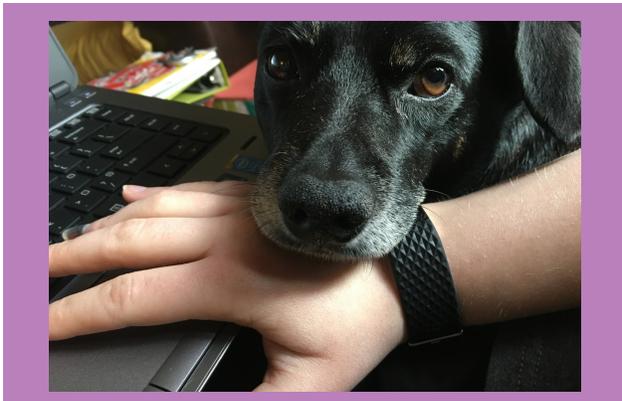
Wow! What a wild ride the last few months have been. Even though my job involves a lot of communicating, I don't usually get to share something personal with you all. Though this is different, I'm excited to share a brief glimpse into what I've been up to.

During the last few months I've been very grateful to work from home and continue serving our church family. As many of you know, I still live at home with my family. We also have a four-legged member of the family named Sam. We jokingly refer to him as my "co-worker" since he always seemed to wiggle his way into whatever space I was working from. Apparently, napping half on the couch and half on my lap is the best.

Over the last couple months, one of the big projects I've helped with is updating & expanding our social media presence, and one of the major upgrades was on our Facebook. I've also continued assisting behind the scenes with many of the things I usually do. Thanks to many of you engaging and commenting, liking & sharing our page, views gone up. That's a wonderful achievement and helps us share the Gospel and connect with even more folks in FDL and the surrounding areas.

There have been many interesting moments (that goes for both work & life at home). Though the way we've needed to work as a staff shifted and changed, I'd like to think we've all grown through this experience. We've explored new ways of doing ministry, and in my mind that's exciting. We had lots of learning curves to navigate and we so appreciate your patience and the grace you've shown to us.

I can't speak for the rest of the staff but I know for me personally God has been doing a lot of work in my life, and in my heart during this time. I'll be completely honest, a lot of it was quite difficult.



***Some fun things I've done during this time include: lots of puppy snuggles, expanding my cooking & baking abilities and enjoying the beautiful weather***

My image of what life would look like was quite different than how it turned out to be. This "valley" has been a tough one. There were many moments of tears, as the Lord dug up roots that I hadn't recognized were still there. I'm sure many of you know that the process of refining is often uncomfortable - though what a wonderful place to be - as He changes us to reflect Him more and more every day.

I know I'm not the only one who's experienced loss or is experiencing a process of grieving. One of the biggest changes I'm facing is a summer at home. Many of you know I've spent the last three summers serving up at Camp of the Woods in Ontario, Canada. As usual, I fundraised and was getting ready to spend 8 weeks up there. Due to government regulations, COTW has made the decision to remain closed until August 31st. As heartbreaking as that is, I know God has a purpose for me this summer. Please pray for myself (and other summer staff including Kelly Hoeksema, David Rutherford, and Cole Vegter, who is still planning to begin a long term internship) as we process what this looks like for each of us, that God would reveal the other doors he's opening for us to serve, and that we would faithfully seek those out. Also please keep the COTW staff, interns, and all of the kids & families they serve up there in your prayers. If you can support camp financially that would be a huge blessing to them during this time.

As we transition back into a "new normal" I pray we would take what we've learned the last few months to continue being the "hands & feet of Jesus" in real and practical ways. No matter what the world throws at us, we are united in Christ. Let us continue to serve Him to the best of our ability.

To God be the Glory,

*Rachel Titel*

# NEWS & NOTES



## Finding Common Ground



WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN

*A Ministry of Women of Grace*

Women of Grace is creating a woman-to-woman visitation ministry, designed to provide care and support while building relationships with the women in our congregation.

### *Introducing Finding Common Ground!*

Finding Common Ground will strive to provide meaningful companionship for women who would benefit from loving support and encouragement from another woman, whether they live alone, or are facing other challenges that leave them feeling isolated or lonely. God's timing in this ministry is perfect, as we find ourselves in these difficult days, spending so much time in our homes and out of touch with others. We are currently looking for women who are interested in learning more about becoming part of the visitation team.

### *Might God be calling you to get involved?*

Pat Janzen, a trained and experienced Lay-care minister, is excited to lead this ministry, helping to equip other women and prepare them to reach out and make a difference in the life of another. About 15 years ago, while living in Illinois, Pat was called to lay ministry, and she is looking forward to having others join her here at Grace Church. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this new opportunity!

Together, Pat and Pastor Barry will equip you with the guidelines and principles of the ministry. The scheduling of this instruction will be determined by the availability of the participants. As we begin this ministry, we may find ourselves connecting through different means, which may include telephone, video meetings, as well as limited in-person contact.

If you are feeling the call to serve, please email: [findingcommongroundfdl@gmail.com](mailto:findingcommongroundfdl@gmail.com) or contact the church office to receive information about training, which is scheduled to begin in early June.

If you would appreciate a visit by a team member, please email the church office to be included on the visitation list.

Please visit the church website: [www.gracechurchfdl.org](http://www.gracechurchfdl.org) or our Vimeo page: [vimeo.com/gracechurchfdl](https://vimeo.com/gracechurchfdl) to view the introduction video!

Please submit information for the July Words of Grace to the church office by June 15th. You can contact the office at (920) 922-7211 or [office@gracechurchfdl.org](mailto:office@gracechurchfdl.org)

We now have a  
 YouTube  
CHANNEL!



Be sure to  
subscribe &  
spread the  
word!

## UPCOMING IMPORTANT BUDGET MEETINGS

- SATURDAY EVENING, JUNE 6 AT 6:30PM IN THE SANCTUARY
- SATURDAY EVENING, JUNE 6 AT 7:00PM THROUGH ZOOM
- SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 7 AT 11:00AM IN THE SANCTUARY.

Please see the **May 26th letter** from the Elders & Deacons for **more information on the budget** and the dates of the scheduled Question & Answer times



## Worship Schedule

### SATURDAY EVENINGS

5:00 PM - WORSHIP SERVICE

### SUNDAY MORNINGS

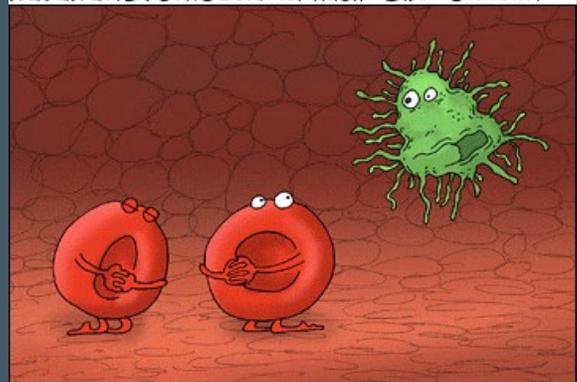
8:30 AM - PRAYER & PRAISE GATHERING

9:30 AM - WORSHIP SERVICE

11:00 AM - COFFEE FELLOWSHIP &  
DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

FOR CURRENT EVENTS & OTHER INFO PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[www.gracechurchfdl.org](http://www.gracechurchfdl.org)

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09-21-2009

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