

April 2021



WORDS OF GRACE

Monthly Newsletter

Inside the Issue

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BARRY...

In his final *Words of Grace* article, Pastor Barry shares some thoughts about the necessity of prayer, especially during times of transition.

MEMORIAL DAY CAMPOUT

The time has come to talk about Memorial Day Weekend! See page 2 for more information on how to get involved! Be sure to mark your calendars for May 28-31.

AN UPDATE ON THE 2021 FMSC PACK

See page 2 for an update on the 2021 Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack and how you can continue to impact those in need around the globe.

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS...

- April 2 **Good Friday Service** *with Communion*
- April 4 **Easter Sunday Worship**
8:30 & 10:45am
- April 5 Office opens at 12:30pm
- April 8 Missions Meeting 6:30pm
- April 12 Elders Meeting 6:30pm
- April 12 Deacons Meeting 6:30pm
- April 26 Elders Fellowship 6:30pm



"Jesus Christ did not come into this world to make bad people good; he came into this world to make dead people live."

- Lee Strobel

A NOTE FROM PASTOR BARRY



Dear Grace Family,

After 21 years of writing articles for the Words of Grace, this will be the last one. For those of you who have been part of my life and ministry throughout these 21 years, it should be no surprise to you that I would be writing one last time on the topic of **prayer**. As I think about this time in my life and in what God is doing at Grace Church, I am so aware of my need for prayer, and the need out church Family to pray for the Elders/Pastors of Grace Church during this time. Times of transition are some of the most unsettling times in our lives but also the time in which much growth can occur. I am reminded of the story in Exodus 17 concerning the importance of prayer and praying for leaders.

In Exodus 17 we read, *"The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands.'* *"So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up – one on one side, one on the other – so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword. "Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.'* *"Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner. He said, 'For hands were lifted up to the throne of the LORD'" (Ex. 17:8-16).*

This Old Testament story is so rich with meaning. John Maxwell calls this story 'the first biblical example of a prayer partnership'. In Partners In Prayer, Maxwell writes, *"With the help of Moses' brother Aaron and a layman named Hur, Joshua was able to be victorious against the forces that were trying to destroy God's children. Moses was one of the greatest leaders who ever lived. He spoke to God face-to-face, as a person would speak to a friend (Ex. 33:11). Yet he still could not do it alone. Even he needed assistance and encouragement"*

What a majestic picture! Imagine Moses, standing alone on the mountain, interceding for Israel. As he prays with hands lifted up to God, with the rod of God – the symbol of power – in his hands, Israel triumphs. But as this eighty-something-year-old prayer warrior gets tired, his hands drop, and the battle turns against Israel. Aaron and Hur came to the top of the mountain and together they held Moses' arms up until the victory was secured.

It is interesting to note that to hold Moses' arms up, the two men had to also hold their own arms up. A prayer meeting was taking place, as all three held their arms up before the throne of God in prayer.

The question today is, ***"Who is holding the arms of your elders/pastors up in prayer? Are you standing with your Elders as they wage war against the enemies of God on your behalf? Is God calling you to be an Aaron or Hur right now during this time in the life of Grace Church?"*** The need is great for Christians who will take seriously the biblical mandate to pray for leaders.

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy saying, *"I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:1-4).* All those in authority are not simply civil authorities. We must pray for those with spiritual authority as well – especially for those who lead, guide, and teach the Church of Jesus Christ.

It should be obvious that there is an all-out assault by the forces of Satan to discredit and sideline Christian leaders. *"Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered"* (Zech. 13:7). Satan has certainly put that verse to use. In church after church, elders/pastors are under attack. **Who will stand with them? Who will pray for them? Is God calling you?**

Praying for our Elders/Pastors ought to be a regular and continual part of our life together This could be the year that our church begins to take even more seriously the need to pray for and encourage our Elders/Pastors. Is God speaking to you right now about being very intentional in praying for the Elders/Pastors of Grace Church? Pray today for God to empower, protect, and supply every need for our Elder/Pastor team, especially during this time of transition.

I have more to say to you all (Surprising, I know!) but those thoughts and words will have to come at another time in the near future through a final congregational letter. I love you all!

Praying,

NEWS & NOTES



AN UPDATE ON THE 2021 FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN EVENT

It is with great sadness that we inform you we will be postponing the Fond du Lac MobilePack Event until 2022. With the uncertainty of events, we felt the best option would be to postpone until next year.

While Feed My Starving Children is not currently holding MobilePack events, they continue to pack at their permanent sites (socially distanced) and via machine packing. Thus, there is a continued need for funding. We are greatly committed to the event and to the Feed My Starving Children organization. We encourage you to continue to support the organization and to pray for them and the recipients of the food that is packed.

Recently the planning board of the Fond du Lac MobilePack met to discuss the needs of Feed My Starving Children and the funds that we have raised. With the great need in the world, we have decided to release the majority of our collected 2020 MobilePack funds to Feed My Starving Children to use to help children now.

We encourage churches and groups to continue to support Feed My Starving Children directly with prayers and funds during this time of uncertainty. We will have an update this fall on the fundraising efforts for our Fond du Lac 2022 MobilePack.

Until then, we encourage people to donate the general fund. Donations can be made on the Feed My Starving Children website www.fmsc.org or by mail at:

Feed My Starving Children
401 93rd NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433



We thank you for your past support and look forward to our continued service in the ministry to feed children around the world.

MEMORIAL DAY CAMPOUT

May 28-31, 2021
at the Green Lake Conference Center

The last year has been full of challenges and stress. What better way to rest, recover and reconnect with your Grace Family than with the annual Memorial Day Campout at the Green Lake Conference Center? We have 1 circle of campsites reserved for our church, a total of 12 sites. The dates this year are May 28-31, rain or shine. The cost is \$37/night. Weekend activities are not all decided yet and might vary from other years due to the current pandemic situation. For more information or to reserve your campsite, *contact Roland or Mary Ritzema at ritzema5@yahoo.com or by phone which can be found in the church directory.*

HEY FOLKS,

Don't forget to bring your "change" to church each Sunday (or throughout the



week during office hours) for our "Change A Life" Mission box project. Boxes are located at the Info Booth and up in the Fellowship Hall. Our goal is to collect \$50 a month to go to the kids at Mahali Pa Maisha in Kenya.

A Huge THANK YOU to the crew of volunteers, headed up by Mark Jopling and Jen Koenigs, who helped clean and organize the storage area above the kitchen! it was a big job but had great results!

JOIN US FOR PASTOR CHAT

Invite your friends and family to join us!

Wednesday Evenings at 6:00pm.

TUNE IN THROUGH:
Facebook: [GraceChurchFDL](https://www.facebook.com/GraceChurchFDL)
YouTube: [GraceChurchFDL](https://www.youtube.com/GraceChurchFDL)
www.gracechurchfdl.org



Join Pastor Grant for our brand new April Pastor Chat series, "Meet our Elders!" During these four sessions Pastor Grant will be interviewing some of our Elder leadership team. You won't want to miss this great time of interaction!

JOIN OUR TRANSITION PRAYER TEAM!
MEETS SUNDAY MORNINGS AT GRACE FROM 10:00-10:30 AM IN THE SANCTUARY.
CONTACT BONNIE SPRINGBORN WITH YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO BE ADDED.
OPEN TO EVERYONE!



APRIL AWANA SCHEDULE

- April 4th - Resurrection Sunday (NO AWANA)
- April 11th - Tie Night
- April 18th - Dress Like a Mess Night
- April 25th - Super Hero Sunday



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 28th - Palm Sunday

Two services 8:30 & 10:45am

Friday, April 2nd - Good Friday Service

with Communion at 6:30pm

Sunday, April 4th- Easter Sunday

Two services 8:30 & 10:45am

Spirit of Life "Titus2gether" Women's Ministry is hosting the Lifeway Women's LIVE Simulcast Event "Pursuing Christ Together"

Join them on Saturday, May 8th from 9:00am-4:00pm! The cost is \$25 per person (lunch is provided). **Early Bird Special thru April 4th! For every group of 5 tickets purchased receive \$5 off per ticket. Deadline to purchase tickets is April 25th. Featured guests include: Lisa Harper, Ruth Chou Simmons, Jackie Hill Perry, Kelly Minter, Jamie Ivey, Kristi McLelland, Point of Grace & Angie Smith.**

For more information contact:
Spirit of Life Church, 240 N National Ave, FDL
923-9222 or office@spiritoflifefdl.com



Please submit information for the May Words of Grace to the church office by April 15th. You can contact the office at (920) 922-7211 or office@gracechurchfdl.org



Monthly Reflection

You may have seen an invitation to a Women's Prayer Summit in our announcements at Grace.

But what is a Prayer Summit?

The Prayer Summit experience is probably different than any meeting you have attended. We worship, but this is not a "praise and worship" service. We read Scripture, but very differently than on a typical Sunday morning. We pray, but with a unique flow: this is not your Tuesday night prayer meeting. Nor is it merely a prayer retreat, designed for you to spend personal time with the Lord. Certainly not a Prayer Conference; do not expect any sermons or study outlines. The Prayer Summit utilizes all-of-the-above, but in such a way that it becomes wonderful to experience, but difficult to describe.

Think of it as a place where all of God's diverse children can come together in humility that produces Scriptural unity. It's an environment that welcomes the expression of every person, culture, and tradition. It's a prayer meeting where all have both the freedom to be themselves and the responsibility to serve others.

Our facilitator is the Holy Spirit. He is the leader. He sets the agenda. A couple of people are assigned to discern the direction of the Spirit as we journey in prayer together. Our foundation is the Word of God; He is our authority. *(taken from the WE-Pray website)*

For more info on Prayer Summits, the leadership team, and future Summits visit www.we-pray.org

Testimonies

of those from Grace who attended the Women's Summit this year...

"I was invited to my first Women's Prayer Summit 20 years ago. Since then I have missed just one. No two are alike as we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Yet one thing remains constant. As we seek God through worship, reading scripture, and prayer, He reveals His Holiness. As we encounter His Holiness, He brings us to a place of Humility. As we humble ourselves in confession and repentance, He knits us together in Unity we become a Community, a body of oneness in Him, and with each other that will make an Impact in our lives and the lives of those we encounter outside the Summit. This is experiencing the body of Christ as described in scripture. We come from different cities, denominations and backgrounds. Then God beautifully knits us together as we hear His voice through each other in our worship, reading of scripture and prayer. Every Summit expands my heart towards God and His precious people."

"The state of my heart leaving the prayer summit was definitely different than it was when I arrived. When I got there Thursday evening, although I was grateful to be there and hopeful for what would all take place, I was drained and exhausted. My heart was tired and overwhelmed.. By the end, it was rejuvenated & filled. Although not all of my circumstances have changed, my perspective on them has. I have joy that is rooted in Him. The Lord encouraged me and gave me the strength to continue on the path He's laid out for me."

"As an attendee of the Women's Prayer Summit, I have a new appreciation for God's Love, and using prayer to reciprocate that love. I learned the benefits of corporate prayer and connecting with other Christians which provided me with strength and peace."

"Walking into the summit on Thursday evening, I was fully aware of the uncertainty my husband and I are facing, due to some difficult circumstances unfolding in our lives. I left Sunday knowing that God has us right where we need to be, and He has equipped us to move ahead, into the unknown, with the assurance that He will carry us through whatever lies in our future. Our job is to trust Him and walk ahead in faith! Spending time in prayer and worship with other believing women helped give me a clear vision of God's tender mercy and loving care. It was time much needed and well spent!."

"I feel so blessed to have spent 4 days and 3 nights with 22 sisters in Christ at the Prayer Summit. It was my first experience... I had no idea what to expect. The gift of spiritual growth in God's Word has lifted my spirit to the roof!! This was an experience I will treasure for a lifetime. God knew how very much I needed that time with Him (through the many other sisters in Christ) to recharge my faith in Him, and encouragement to continue living in Him."

"The Prayer Summit drew me closer to God, who touched and healed my heart in ways I didn't think were possible."

• If you would like to hear more about this year's Summit, we invite you to talk to one of the ladies listed here who attended: Carol Blain, Wendy Compton, Robin Fuhrman, Estelle Kelly, Audrey Titel, Rachel Titel •

The Anchor Holds

by Jack Witte

"You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised." Hebrews 10:36

"Perseverance" is a very interesting and meaningful word, especially for a Christian. Perseverance means ... steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success. Synonyms for perseverance include ... persistence, determination, tenacity, diligence, stick-to-it-tiveness, and many more. When the road we are traveling gets tough or difficult or dark or even monotonous ... it is then we need perseverance.

The Bible clearly tells us that in following our Savior, Jesus, we will often come up against hardship and strife, yet we are to remain steadfast, determined, and persistent, as we patiently wait for His guiding and instruction. I will be the first to say that often for me, this is a difficult thing. I want things to happen quickly and find it difficult to wait patiently for God's answers, even while realizing that God works on His timetable and not mine. Steve Campbell says ... "Determination (perseverance) is the refusal to accept defeat as final." Let's read James 1:2-4 ... "Count it all a joy, my brothers (and sisters), when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. Blessed is the man (or woman) who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him."

No matter what trial each of us faces this day, we need to always remember that God hears our prayers and He will answer them. The trial you and I are facing is temporary, and if we remain faithful to God's promise, His reward for us will be eternal. Joyce Meyer shares this ... "Refuse to settle for anything less than everything God has for you." That's perseverance, that's determination, that's what God expects of us. To quote one of my favorite baseball players of all time, Yogi Berra ... "It ain't over till it's over." With God ... it's never over until the day He brings us home.

My hope is anchored in the name of God...and He will see me through!

Paid in Full...

I was thinking about the above words ... PAID IN FULL. What sweet words to hear after you've paid off your car loan or your house payment...that credit card debt that you have struggled with for so many months to payoff and gain control over, and now you read your statement that says ... balance zero ... PAID IN FULL.

For Christ followers, we have another debt that for which we were once held accountable. When we were born into this world, we brought with us the sin of Adam and Eve. As we became of age, the sins in our life accumulated and added to that original sin. You and I became indebted to our Heavenly Father. For some, like myself, it took me thirty-six years to recognize my ever-growing debt of sin and the vast sum of debt I had accumulated. On a sunny Sunday morning in September of 1976, I came to realize that the only way my sins could be forgiven was to invite Jesus into my life.

God knew from the very beginning that I could never pay off my debt of sin and there was no way for me to be saved of sin's consequences. But in His love for me, He sent His Son Jesus to pay the price for my sins on Calvary's cross.

We all have a sin debt that we owe to God. When you borrow from a bank, you are required to give them your credit report and provide collateral or a down payment as an insurance you will pay. God requires nothing... Nothing but a heart that recognizes wrong and seeks the forgiveness that none of us deserve, yet is free for the asking. With God, our sin debt is forgiven and erased from His memory.

When Jesus was dying on the cross, He uttered these words ... "IT IS FINISHED!" Your sin debt and mine were forgiven ... PAID IN FULL!

Want to get rid of your sin debt, what a better morning than this morning to ask God's forgiveness? There is no greater feeling than to live each new day debt free ... PAID IN FULL!

Your Anchor will hold ... in spite of your storms!

ENJOY SOME **SPRING** THEMED FUN!

Unscramble these
SPRING-themed words!

eitk	----	sbgv	----
ogwr	----	moobl	-----
romw	----	iskhcc	-----
rscop	-----	rarefm	-----
		kajcet	-----

**Why are people tired
in April?**

Because they just finished a March

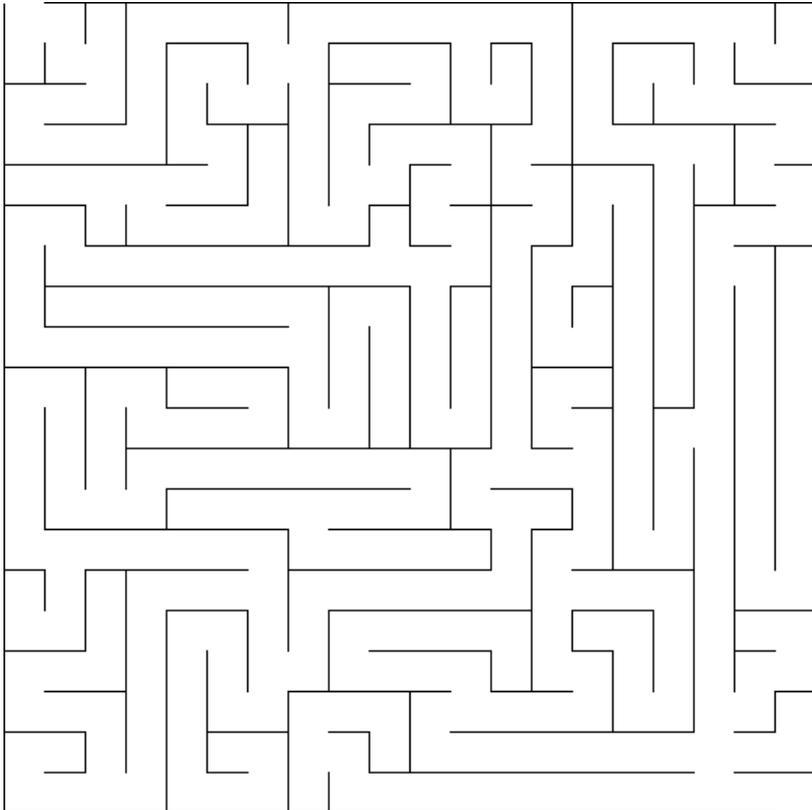
**Why couldn't the
duck work for the
Easter Bunny?**

He kept quacking the eggs.

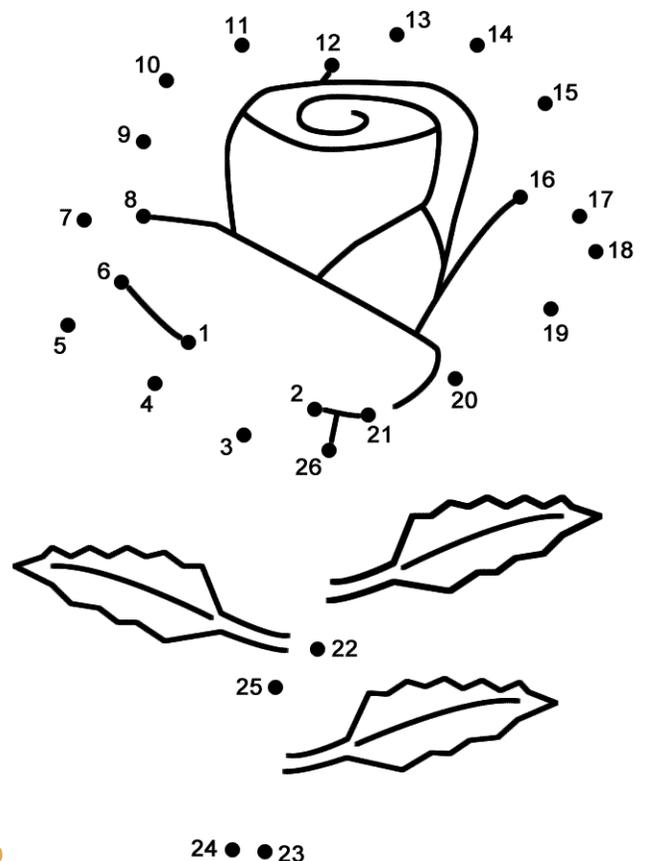
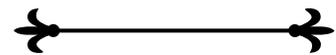
**What's an Easter egg
from outer space
called?**

An egg-stra-terrestrial.

**HELP THE BUMBLEBEE REACH THE FLOWER
BY FINISHING THE MAZE!**



Connect the dots to
complete the flower!



© www.BigActivities.com





163 18th Street
 Fond du Lac, WI 54935
 office@gracechurchfdl.org
 www.gracechurchfdl.org

CORPORATE PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES:
 Sunday mornings at 7:45am & 10:15am
 Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm
 Wednesday AM Men's prayer at 6:30am.
All meet at Grace Church building

GRACE CHURCH STAFF

Head Pastor & Chief Shepherd - *Jesus Christ*

Lead Pastor - *Barry Vegter*

cell: 948-5702 email: vegter@gracechurchfdl.org

Associate Pastor - *Grant Baumgart*

cell: 948-6373 email: baumgart@gracechurchfdl.org

Family Pastor - *Brad Rutherford*

cell: 313-0456 email: rutherford@gracechurchfdl.org

Administrative Assistant - *Carol Blain*

phone: 922-7211 email: office@gracechurchfdl.org

Communications/Media Coordinator - *Rachel Titel*

email: cmc@gracechurchfdl.org

Office Assistant - *Beth Rutherford*

Custodian - *Mark Jopling*

Pastor on Call: Friday, Saturday & Sunday

(920) 948-9262

Offering & Attendance

		8:30/10:45
2/7/2021	\$4,503	107/29
2/14/2021	\$12,419	96/18
2/21/2021	\$4,245	100/48
2/28/2021	\$16,683	105/24

February Weekly Ave: \$9,462.78 102/30

**Weekly average needed to meet budget
 \$10,142**

Year to Date Givings \$320,694

Year to Date Expenses \$287,212

Totals reflect February month-end totals

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit information for the
May Words of Grace
 to the church office by **April 15th**.
 You can contact the office at (920) 922-7211 or
 office@gracechurchfdl.org

Office Hours are:
 Monday-Thursday 7:30am-4:30pm
 Friday 7:30am-11:30am