

July 2020

WORDS OF GRACE

Monthly Newsletter

Inside the Issue

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BARRY...

Pastor Barry shares some thoughts about our prayer lives, and the value of praying scripture, as Jesus did in John 17. See page 2.

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.

WELCOME TO MYSTERY ISLAND!

Vacation Bible Camp is scheduled for August 3-7, 2020! Registration is now open for Grace members and friends. Check out the VBC Headquarters on our Website!

JULY HIGHLIGHTS...

- July 3 - Office closed (in observation of July 4 holiday)
- July 4 - NO Men's Group or Evening Worship Service!
- July 5 - Worship with Communion, 9:30am
- July 12 - **Finding Common Ground** Training, 11:00am
- July 20 - Deacons Meeting, 6:30pm
- VBC Skit Practice: Monday evenings 6:00-9:00pm



Staff Vacation Schedule for July

- July 6 - July 18: Brad Rutherford
July 9 - July 13: Rachel Titel
July 20-July 24: Carol Blain
PG returns to office on July 6



A NOTE FROM PASTOR BARRY (PB)

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Dear Grace Family,

Recently, in light of all of the division in our nation and relationships, I have been praying through Jesus' prayer in John 17. You can tell a lot about a person by listening to him or her pray. The passions of the heart flow out through prayer and give us a glimpse into their soul. What is really important to a person will find its way into their prayer life. So it was for Jesus as He prayed in John 17.

I'd like to focus on one point of passion with Jesus as He prays in this passage. It concerns the fourth petition in this prayer, "May they be one" in verse 21. It seems to me that Jesus is at his most passionate in this request. It is this part of the prayer that seems to identify the believer most with *both Father and Son*. The practical, lived-out unity of the Body of Christ reflected in love for one another is literally the *most powerful apologetic* to the world - that God had sent Jesus into the world and demonstrated for all eternity the Father's great love for mankind (Verses 20-26 and John 13:1-35).

Our passion needs to come alongside that of our Lord's. Should we not join our prayers with Jesus for the unity of all believers? We can discuss the implications and obstacles to unity forever, but the most powerful force toward unity is the same used by Jesus... prayer! WE NEED TO PRAY towards God's purposes and **join Him in His work**...be an answer to Jesus' prayer!!!

Praying Scripture has now become the primary way I pray. It is in praying the Word of God that we most line up with His thoughts and intents. Would it be possible for us to take Jesus' prayer for unity from John 17:20-23 and make it an integral part of our prayer life? Here are some aspects of unity that I am praying for:

Holy Father, I lift before You today the scattered followers of Jesus Christ. In the same way that Jesus prayed, not just for the disciples who stood in front of Him as He prayed, but for all who would believe in Him through their message, so I too, do not limit my prayers just to the Christians around me. Lord, there are millions of us now...divided by language, creed, and customs. Our divisions have brought us shame and have hindered the advancement of the Gospel.

Father...make us one. In the same way that You and Your Son are one, would You make us one? I don't understand Your unity....how two can be one, and how the Holy Spirit added to that makes the three still one. But in some ways that is reassuring, because I also don't understand how You can make all of us one. It's obvious though, Lord, that our unity is somehow rooted in Your very unity as God. That gives me hope.

Father, in a way that is beyond our comprehension, You dwell in Jesus and Jesus dwells in You. That astonishing unity is what You desire for us by inviting us as believers in Jesus to come to dwell in You. We confess our desire for that as well. We want to live in You. We want to continually experience Your presence...Your oneness.

We are beginning to see that dwelling in You in unity is so amazing that it literally declares to a watching world that You truly did send Jesus into the world. We need a supernatural work of Your Holy Spirit to break down our divisions and to bring us together into Your presence. We long to see the day when the world wakes up to the realization of Your awesome love that prompted You to send Jesus into the world. Father, make us one that this day might come soon.

Father, as You and Your Son are one, Your presence in Him and His presence in You, we pray the presence of Your Spirit in us will make us one with You and Your Son. And if we are one with You and Your Son, then we certainly become one with each other. You are not divided, Lord.

Forgive us for our actions and attitudes that have appeared to divide the Body of Christ as we root our unity in Your Truth (verse 17).

Would You give us the passion for unity that You and Your Son have? Help us to see how important this issue is to the proclamation of the Gospel.

You have loved us as You love Your Son. Please teach us to love each other in that way...people who are different from us in so many ways...yet who are still a part of Your Body. Bring us to complete unity that the world may know of Your astounding love. We ask in Jesus' name. AMEN

So let's make a declaration in July, a declaration of "**DEPENDENCE**" on God and renew our commitment to pray for and with one another, so that Jesus' prayer in John 17 would become a reality.

Love,
Pastor Barry

NEWS & NOTES

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EMERY'S THUNDER RUN

Bringing The Thunder To Childhood Cancer



Emery's Thunder Run has been rescheduled to begin July 6th. Peter Halper (Emery's Great Uncle) is running across the country to raise funds and awareness of childhood Neuroblastoma and support families in treatment. We are looking for *prayer warriors* to "sponsor" an hour of the day in prayer for Peter and his team. See the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for more info and to sign up to pray. Purple bracelets are available for a donation and for those who commit to the prayer vigil. Check our church website for more info: www.gracechurchfdl.org



FROM CAMP OF THE WOODS

During the summer months volunteers help complete building projects, equipment maintenance, and cutting and stacking our firewood. We are prayerfully determining which projects we will tackle as a staff. The one that is a must is the firewood. Not being able to host volunteers has made this task quite a challenge for us as each year we depend on them to help us cut and stack up to 90 cords. Over the past several years the need for a more efficient and safe way to handle the wood has been discussed. This summer our plan is to purchase a firewood processor and conveyor system to help with this job. We will be able to cut and move the wood in anticipation of volunteers to help finish the stacking in the fall. Having this equipment will allow us to focus on the virtual camp programs and other projects.

We are still encouraged and excited by so many upcoming opportunities to share the love of Jesus! Looking forward to when you can join us again onsite, and we ask you to continue to pray for the ministries of COTW. If you are interested in making a donation towards the firewood processor or the general fund please contact us or visit cotwcanada.com for more information.



Finding Common Ground

WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN
A Ministry of Women of Grace

Finding Common Ground is a new ministry with the mission of providing 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. Pastor Barry will be providing a training meeting on July 12 after worship, at 11:00am. This is open to any women interested in participating in this visitation ministry, as well as those who may be undecided, but would like to find out more about this opportunity to serve. Check out the video on the Grace Church website for more information, or email findingcommongroundfdl@gmail.com

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

CONCERNING THE CHURCH OFFICE



Carol is very happy to be back in the office. We have made a few adjustments to keep her and other staff members (including Rachel and Annette!) at low risk whenever possible. You may not be aware of it, but throughout the course of a week, there is considerable traffic in the office area – not just members coming in for studies and meetings, but also delivery people, maintenance workers, inspectors, etc. To minimize the number of extra contacts and maintain physical distancing, we are keeping a partition in the doorway. If you need something from the office staff, you will be met at the office door for assistance. We appreciate your understanding and respect, and are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, but it is just another way we can care for each other during this challenging and frustrating time we are experiencing.



There will be no Worship Service at Grace on Saturday, July 4th. You're invited to join us for worship Sunday, July 5th at 9:30am.

YOUTH FOR CHRIST

PEACH SALE

July 15-17th

Noon - 6pm*
(*until sold out)

For more info please visit:
www.badgerlandyfc.org
or call (920) 923-1416



You're invited to partner with us in reaching youth for Christ. Peach sales directly help change lives! \$35 lug (15 pounds) \$20 half lug.
Peaches straight from Georgia!

Fond du Lac Locations:
YFC Office 303 E 9th St &
ReachOut Books
221 N. Peters Ave



YouTube
LIVE STREAM

Join us for our
Worship Service
Live Stream!
Visit our website for
direct links:
www.gracechurchfdl.org

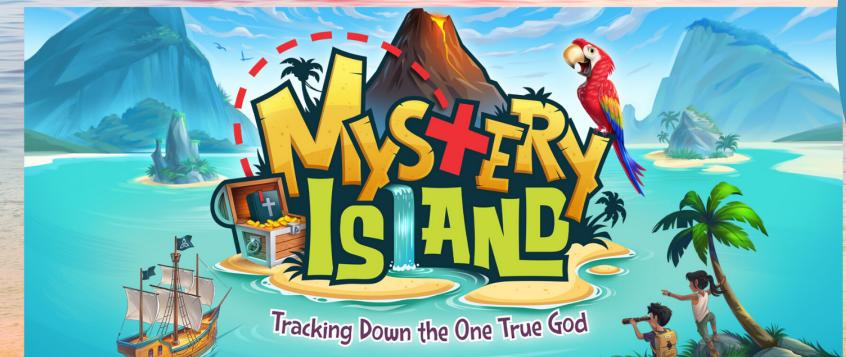
A Note from Marge Launder

Just a note to thank everyone for their prayers and well wishes during the time I broke my foot. It's official now, I am out of the boot and is healing well. God has blessed me with great friends and family and I truly felt your prayers. Thanks again and God bless each of you!!

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

**Aug. 3-7th, 2020 | 8:45-11:30 am
for 4k thru 5th grade**

**COST: \$5 PER CHILD OR \$15 PER FAMILY
(3 OR MORE CHILDREN) TO BE PAID ON THE FIRST
DAY OF THE PROGRAM.**



**ONLINE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!
REGISTER EARLY BECAUSE CLASS SIZES ARE LIMITED!**

**Join us for some FUN
in the Sun!**

**At Mystery Island,
we'll uncover the
truth about our
Creator God! There's
a sea of confusion
about who God is
and what he's like,
so we'll track down
the one true God and
learn how amazing
he is through the
pages of Scripture.**

WE NEED YOU!

We are still in need of a few volunteers to fill some vacancies. Please contact Traci Soeller at sollertr@gmail.com, or the Grace church office. Expect a week filled with tropical fun and adventure.

Here is what we are doing at Grace to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 during VBC:

- During Vacation Bible Camp, all children will be placed in classes of 10 students or fewer. Classes will stay together and be assigned to the same classroom for the duration of the week.
- When in the sanctuary, classes will be spread out, skipping every other pew, in an assigned pew for the whole week.
- Everyone will be encouraged to frequently sanitize or wash their hands, as we enter and switch to different activities.
- We have eliminated large group crafts, and instead, each child will have an individually packaged project to work on during class time. The classes will not mix except when we go outside for recreation time, when they will have one other class joining them out in the big field. We will use physical distancing practices when selecting and playing games.
- We will sanitize hands before eating snack, and each snack will be served individually, so that no "sharing" of food or utensils occurs. Snack tables will be cleaned with an approved cleaner after each class group.
- Name tags will be single use stickers and all materials will be separated for individuals so that they are not "shared".
- There is a kit in each classroom to be used daily (and as needed throughout the day) to clean the tables and other surfaces.
- Adults and children are welcome to wear masks, if they choose.

Please contact Traci Soeller (sollertr@gmail.com) or the Grace Office (office@gracechurchfdl.org (920) 922-7211) with any questions.

DONATION INFORMATION

As always, we are looking for your help in supplying donations of food and craft materials, to keep our program within budget, while offering fun snacks and crafts. Complete lists of food and craft needs are available on our website, www.gracechurchfdl.org/vbcheadquarters. Please sign up soon, all donations are needed by July 26th.



The Anchor Holds

by Jack Witte

***“But the Helper ... the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name ...
He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” John 14:26***

I have to be honest with you, sometimes I don't give the Holy Spirit the credit He deserves in helping me live each day for Christ. I realize too that there is a mystery that surrounds Him and the role He plays in my living each day as God has planned for me to live. I realize that He doesn't speak to me in an audible voice, but instead He guides me through my conscience quietly and subtly. I know so well that God the Father is the one who created me in His image and that His Son, Jesus died for my sins on Calvary's cross, yet the Holy Spirit's role in my life still remains somewhat a mystery. I think the best way for any of us to recognize God's Holy Spirit is by studying God's word. Knowing God's word and putting it into practice will make us aware of just how important a role the Holy Spirit plays in each day we live. It shows me the role of guidance consular that the Holy Spirit performs each day in my decision making and how He directs each step I take in doing the Father's will. God's word promises us this ... *“Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weaknesses, for we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”* (Romans 8:26-27) Jesus compares the Holy Spirit to the wind. Jesus summed it up best in John 3:8 ... *“The wind blows where it wishes and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where goes, and so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”*

*Holy Spirit of God, fill our minds and our hearts with the grace
of God that will lead us on our daily walk and will one day lead us home to our
heavenly reward ... eternal life. Amen*

“It takes broken soil to produce a crop, clouds to yield rain, broken grain to make bread, broken bread to give strength. It was the broken alabaster box that gave forth perfume, and it was Peter, weeping bitterly, who returned to greater power than ever.” Vance Havner

I remember the day I was mowing my back yard on my old Toro rider. It began to sputter as it came to a grinding halt, leaving me with almost the entire back yard not mowed. It was beyond repair, it was completely broken. I had no choice but to get rid of it and buy a new one. That is our human nature -- when things are broken, we get rid of them. But not so with our Heavenly Father, for God uses broken things and broken people to serve His purpose. Sometimes we feel that our past has made us unworthy to be used by God. But in the Bible, we see that God looked beyond the flaws of many of His most faithful and used them for a greater purpose. Moses was a murderer. Gideon was afraid. Joseph was abused. Samson was a womanizer, Jonah ran from Him, and Peter denied Him. Even when we have labeled ourselves unworthy, God will choose us to do what He desires of us, regardless of who we are, where we came from, or most importantly ... what we've done. God will take even the most broken life and make it new and useful for Him. You might say and believe that you are “messed up”, He can take us and mend the brokenness and make us like new again. Think about it ... HE CAN USE ANY ONE OF US! And one more verse for assurance from 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NAS) *“Therefore if anyone is in Christ he is a new creature ... the old things passed away ... behold, new things have come.”* Once you become aware that the main business that you are here for is to know God, most of life's problems fall into place of their own accord.

Father, touch the hearts of those who feel broken and help them to realize that Your Holy Word promises to make them new and useful for Your work. Help them to feel Your presence this morning as they experience the love of the Father, given through Your free gift of grace. Amen

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



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

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

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!

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

5/3/2020	\$1,410	----
5/10/2020	\$18,744	----
5/17/2020	\$4,130	----
5/24/2020	\$8,430	Outdoor
5/31/2020	\$16,683	43/137
May Weekly Ave:	\$9,879.40	n/a

**Weekly average needed to meet budget
\$10,117**

Year to Date Givings \$476,661
Year to Date Expenses \$464,767

Totals reflect May month-end totals

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit information for the
August Words of Grace

to the church office by **July 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