

WORDS OF GRACE

A Publication of GracePoint Church

Real Faith for Real Life

*“The Word became flesh and blood,
and moved into the neighborhood.”
John 1:14 (MSG)*

We must reclaim the power of an incarnated gospe—the gospel of a fully human Jesus who lived out a faith so scandalous they accused him of being a drunkard, a fool, and an unsaved sinner.

What does incarnated, fleshed-out-in-human-form faith look like?

It looks like most of the time admitting that we really don’t fully understand what Jesus is talking about, and more often than not we have no clue what to do next. Yet, despite our doubts, fear, and cluelessness, when God tells us to build an ark in a landlocked town, we respond by saying, “What! That’s a crazy, nonsensical plan, God.” Then we pick up a hammer and get to work.

What does incarnated, fleshed-out-in-human-form hope look like?

It looks like weeping with those who are weeping, and laughing with those who are laughing. In the already-but-not-yet of God’s kingdom, hope is the inconsolable sorrow of the not yet mingled with the inexpressible joy of the already.

The incarnation gives us the promise of a coming physical kingdom on a new physical earth with new physical bodies, under the

kingship of the God-Man who is forever in human form.

What does incarnated, fleshed-out-in-human-form love look like?

Jesus incarnates himself through each of you in a way that is solely unique to you. No one in the entire universe can be Jesus to another in the way that only you can. No one else can share the gospel in the way you can, because the gospel is the story of God’s grace in your life, and your story is only *your* story.

The incarnation gives us an agape love that sits with the sorrowful, fights on behalf of the oppressed, visits the imprisoned, feeds the poor, clothes the homeless, empowers the weak, heals the wounded, and encourages the brokenhearted.

The incarnation turns the world upside down. It gives us a gospel that declares that humility is exalted over hubris, that meekness overcomes might, and that the will to love is stronger than the will to power.

God fleshed out in human form, living in the blood, sweat, and tears of the human condition, gives us a faith that is earthy and gritty, and lived out in the daily grind of real life.

The gospel of incarnated love looks like Jesus in human form—it is dirty, inconvenient, and costly.

What does
incarnated,
fleshed-out-in-
human-form love
look like?

Pastor Chris



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GLORIFYING GOD BY

CONNECTING
people to God

LOVING
God and each other

GROWING
in grace and truth

SERVING
Dubuque and the world

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Tim Walsh
Mary Burns
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**GracePoint
Deacons**

Care
Group Deacon

- 1 Sue Lemon
- 2 Robin Wlochall
- 3 Pauline Brimeyer
- 4 Shirley VanDuser
- 5 Janet Metelak
- 6 Barb Berg
- 7 Suz Birch
- 8 Sharon Baker
- 9 Carolyn Arnold

Deacon Moderator

Pauline Brimeyer

WOMEN MENTORING WOMEN MARCH 3RD LUNCHEON

Please join us for our next Women Mentoring Women luncheon after the Horizons service on March 3. We will continue with the SOULCARE video and discussion. If you are *just thinking* about this, or if it has been on your mind, please consider attending the luncheon; find out what it is all about. This is for ALL AGES from teens to our most mature Christian women.

Good conversation, sharing, support, and blessings abound!! Contact Pam Hillary, Martha Intveld, or Karen Storlie for more information about WMW.

**How Your Session Serves You**

As part of our missional renewal and restructuring, five years ago we revamped our Session to be more aligned with a missional model. We created six Elder areas corresponding to our vision statement: Prayer, Worship, Missional Outreach, Equipping, Stewardship, and Fellowship. We have two Elders in each of these slots, with overlapping classes to allow for one year of mentoring.

As we lived into this new paradigm, we made adjustments according to best practices. We moved to having just one Elder for worship, and this adjustment gave us three Elders for Stewardship to cover the areas of personnel, property, and finance. This year, we are continuing to tweak our model by changing the Elder of Prayer and Care slot, to an Elder of Prayer and Worship.

While our Elder board is officially 12 slots, we function according to the number of people willing and qualified to serve. Last year, we had eleven Elders, and as this year begins, we have eight Elders. Your nominating team continues prayerfully to seek qualified and gifted Elders to fill the remaining four slots.

Your Session serves you well in humility, giftedness, vision, godliness, and saturating every decision in much prayer, and is firmly grounded in God's Word. I ask you please to keep your Elders in much prayer throughout this year, to encourage them as they labor many hours for you, and to express your gratitude often to them.

Pastor Chris

GRACEPATH MODULE 4

February 27—April 7

(No classes on March 31, Easter Sunday.)

The Journey Continues

Pastor Chris

The Journey will continue to align with this year's sermon series.

Biblical Worldview

Alan Crandall and Paul Jensen

Book and other information to be announced. This class will run through May 19.

Biblical Relationships Continues

Frank & Gaye Grote

Biblical Relationships is a new class this year, featuring "Families Where Grace Is in Place" by author Jeff VanVonderen.

Book is optional, \$11.00.

Managing Your Money God's Way

Don and Wilma Sanders

Book \$15.00

Registration begins February 10, 2013.

Scholarships are available.



Seven Riddles

(Adapted from the “Security Clearance” sermon.)

Some of you were interested in the seven riddles and their answers that were developed from the sermon at our recent Security Clearance retreat. Here they are. Enjoy. Pastor Dana

1. Who is perfectly in control of everything yet much of the time allows others to do whatever they want?
2. How can the world be the Lord’s and the devil’s at the same time?
3. How can God be tempted to sin (Jesus in the wilderness) by His own creature (the devil—a created being), when the Bible says He cannot be tempted? **James 1:13** Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”, for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.
4. Who would God be sinning against if He did sin?
5. How can God say “All authority in Heaven and earth have been given to me”. When did God (Jesus) not have authority? Who is big enough to give God authority? Who has the authority to give authority to the almighty?
6. How can Jesus preach, heal the sick, and raise the dead—yet he says in John 5:19 that he “can do nothing” and in **John 8:28** He explains that with His authority, He does nothing. (Trick question, I admit.)
7. How can we (the disciples of Jesus) die of cancer and still be told to heal the sick? (**MT 10:8, Lk 10:9, 2 Kings 13:14**)

Answers to these riddles are on page 11.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, May 4th, 8:00am–1:00pm

Your Prayer and Care Ministry Team will be sponsoring our 4th Annual Concert of Prayer on Saturday, the 4th of May, at the Shalom Center. The Concert of Prayer will run from 08:00am until 1:00pm.

Please mark this date on your calendar and plan on attending. You will not be disappointed. Contact Doug Storlie, 556-7548, if you have any questions



GLOBAL MISSIONS

(This information removed at the request of our featured Missionary)



2013



February

2013

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:30a Traditions 9:30a Guys and Gals 9:30a Fellowship Time 10:00a GracePath Classes 11:15a Horizons 5:30p GraceUnderground	4 6:00p Food Pantry	5 6:30p Precepts	6 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst 9:00a Precepts 5:30p Bell choir 7:00p Fellowship Team	7	8	9 11:15a DBQ Rescue Mission Lunch
10 8:30a Traditions 9:30a Fellowship Time 10:00a GracePath Classes 11:15a Horizons 1:30p Bethany Home 5:30p GraceUnderground	11 6:00 Food Pantry	12 9:00a Missional Project Ladies 6:30p Precepts	13 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst 9:00a Precepts 5:30p Bell Choir 7:00p Ash Wednesday	14	15	16 
17 7:45a Vocal Choir Practice 8:30a Traditions 9:30a Fellowship Time 10:00a GracePath Classes 11:15a Horizons 5:30p GraceUnderground	18 6:00p Food Pantry	19 6:30p Precepts	20 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst 9:00a Precepts 5:30p Bell Choir 7:00pm Elder Ministry	21 11:30a Red Hats	22	23
24 8:30a Traditions 9:30a Fellowship Time 10:00a GracePath Classes 11:15a Horizons 5:30p GraceUnderground	25 6:00p Food Pantry	26 6:30p Precepts	27 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst 9:00a Precepts 5:00p Golden Oldies 5:30p Bell Choir 6:30p Session	28		

Membership to Date	
Active	151
Inactive	9
Perm. Inactive	<u>3</u>
Total	163

CLERK'S REPORT

Administrative Bookkeeper's Report:

General Fund Beginning Balance, December 1, 2012	\$11,087.23
Total General Fund Receipts	<u>\$36,318.05</u>
Subtotal Beginning Balance & Receipts	\$47,405.28
General Fund Disbursements	\$32,971.01
Allocations & Transfers	<u>\$1,191.66</u>
Subtotal Disbursements, Allocations & Transfers	\$34,162.67

General Fund Ending Balance, December 31, 2012	\$13,242.61
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Ash Wednesday is on February 13th.

Pat Kohler, Clerk of Session

GOLDEN OLDIES

Golden Oldies will meet on Wednesday, February 27th, 5:00pm, at the Sunshine Family Restaurant on Central. Sign up in the lobby the Sunday before or call Bob Boelk, 557-9166.

**ALL SENIORS ARE
WELCOME!**



GUYS AND GALS

On the first Sunday of the month, after the service, a group of seniors meet for brunch at Chuck and Jo's Restaurant on Iowa Street. All seniors are invited to join us. If you have any questions, contact Betty Muellich at 582-3505.

2013 GracePoint Handbook

Elders, Deacons, and Other Persons with Information for the 2013 Handbook:

Please send materials to me as soon as possible. I would like to compile the Handbook for February, the latest.

Review the 2012 Handbook to see what areas you need to supply. One area that is the most difficult for me to collect from everyone is the listing of team members for the elders.

Please send it to me at karen_storlie@mcgraw-hill.com or at karen@storlie.net. You can also leave the material in the church office (in my box) or call me at 563-556-7548.

Thanks much! Karen Storlie



Saturday
February 16

BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Makaela Buol
- 6 Pete Conrad
- 8 Natalie Huston
- 12 Mike McCarthy
- 12 Doug Mulder
- 13 Bob Boelk
- 14 Ray Wlochal
- 14 Mike Stowers
- 14 Barry Montague
- 17 Karin Loukinen
- 17 Alex Wiest
- 22 Betty Pothoff
- 22 Alan Crandall
- 23 Nicholas Bell
- 25 Bob Burns
- 25 Kevin Hirschey
- 27 Bob Ege



ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Hongjoo & Brent Harknett
- 25 Karin & Ernest Loukinen

Check Out the Library

We receive donations of new and used books and videos all the time. There is always something new in the library. The library is open Sundays from 8:30am–noon. If you have any new books or videos to donate to the library, contact Mable or Bob Boelk, 557-9166.



Fellowship Committee

The fellowship committee will meet on Wednesday, February 6th, at 7:00pm. New people are welcome to join this committee. Please contact Ray Wlochal or Bob Boelk about being a part of this committee.



THANK YOU ALL!

Gerry Vandenberg and all those who work in the food pantry would like to thank all of you who have provided hams, turkeys, produce, or cash donations to the food pantry. The food pantry patrons have had more nutritional meals because of your generosity.

Also, the pantry funds are being separated from the local deacon benevolence this year. If you are giving money specifically for the food pantry be sure to write food pantry on the envelope or check.



THE 2013 WINTER RETREAT: “SECURITY CLEARANCE”

As you might expect with top secret operations, the adventure held a few surprises. I have to say I wasn't expecting...

- mud instead of snow.
- the smoke alarm going off.
- Venison.
- to be missing the one cord we needed for our guest musical artist.
- that the glow sticks wouldn't light up.
- something like a 40 degree drop in temperature in a few hours.

And I also have to say I wasn't expecting...

- that the worship time could be so raw and simple, and so deeply experienced at the same time.
- that some of the kids who came who have very little experience with church or Christ would be so beautifully open to receiving the Word of God.
- that the leaders would so effortlessly and fluidly serve in ways that let all of our gifts function well.
- that our guest artists/speakers would stay up all night praying for the kids and designing one-of-a-kind t-shirts with God-breathed art and messages on them.
- that the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (the experience of God's presence) would rest on us so beautifully—something we experienced in times of worship and in the closing moments of the retreat.
- that the Lord would demonstrate His love and power by bringing us into a full spirit of unity despite age differences and differences in histories together.

Special thanks to Pauline Brimeyer, Ken and Judy Godwin, Martha Intveld, and Beverly VanDerZyl for volunteering over the weekend, and to the De Meesters for the use of their van and the gas donation.



This event features fundraising for World Vision to feed impoverished people around the world, and an overnight at the church. The students fast for 30 hours and gain pledges for their fasting. While at the church, they have beautiful worship moments and hours of teaching about poverty and hunger around the world—all in light of the Bible's clear teaching about how to respond to the suffering of others. February 22–23.

Please pray for all these events, and listen carefully for God's whispers. He wants us to see the light.

God's peace.
Pastor Dana



Middle School & High School Youth

5:30–6:00pm
Food—all ages

6:00–7:00pm
Middle School games
Senior High worship
and teaching/equipping

7:00–8:00pm
Senior High games
Middle School worship and
teaching/equipping

Connecting,
Loving, Growing,
Serving

PRAYER CHAIN

To start a prayer, call Pat Kohler or Lois Trausch-Wolfe.

Daytime Prayer Chain

- Pat Kohler
583-8978
- Gerry Vandenberg
583-5338
- Ramona Hennings
583-8739
- Eddie Ege
583-1974
- Wilma Sanders
582-7346
- Mable Boelk
557-9166
- Sue Lemon
583-4454
- Lois Trausch-Wolfe
583-0534

(Lois starts the evening chain.)

Evening Prayer Chain

- Sharon Baker
588-2115
- Glenda Temple
582-0464
- Pam Hillary
556-5846
- Karen Storlie
556-7548
- Kim or Jerry Bell
582-4956

SERVANTS OF THE LORD

February

Traditions Worship Venue 8:30am

Communion Preparers (Feb 3) Barb Berg, Pauline Brimeyer

Communion Servers (Feb 3) Doug & Karen Storlie, Ben & Glenda Temple

Ushers Greeters

February 3 Ben & Glenda Temple Karin & Ernie Loukinen

February 10 Frank & Gaye Grote Dwayne & Martha Intveld

February 17 Tim & Connie Walsh Karin & Ernie Loukinen

February 24 Mike Boland Dwayne & Martha Intveld
Ralph Vandenberg

Prayers of the People Prayer Ministry Team

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| February 3 | Doug Storlie | Doug & Karen Storlie |
| February 10 | Mary Hirschey | Kevin & Mary Hirschey |
| February 17 | Pam Hillary | Pam Hillary |
| February 24 | Doug Storlie | Doug Storlie |

Horizons Worship Venue 11:15am

Communion Servers (Feb 3) Pam DeMeester, Verna Davis

Communion Servers (Ash Wednesday, Feb 13) Sue Birch, Sue Lemon

Ushers Greeters Child Care

Feb 3 Pauline & Dan Brimeyer Dixie Shaffer Angela Baumann
Mike Vandenberg Liz Harknett

Feb 10 Steve & Sue Lemon Dixie Shaffer Erin Barsema
Mike Vandenberg Suz Birch

Feb 17 Glenn & Patti Scheer Barb Berg, Pat Kohler Betty Carlson
MaryAnn Hopkins

Feb 24 Betty Carlson Barb Berg, Pat Kohler Dan & Pauline Brimeyer
Mary Ann Hopkins

Seven Riddle Answers

1 God is in perfect control while he allows free will. That free will still ultimately serves His purposes, and falls under His power. (Westminster Confession Chap 5 paragraph 2: “by this same providence he orders things to happen from secondary causes.”) **Job 42:2** "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.”

2 The world is the Lord’s and allowed into the hands of the devil by the nature of creation and Adam’s sin. **Genesis 1:26** ²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **Romans 8:19-21** ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

3 God is not tempted to sin, humanity is—the mediator (Jesus, God in human flesh) was tempted as we are. **Philippians 2:5-8** ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

4 God can sin against no one, God and righteousness are inseparable. However, man could sin against God—Jesus embodied full human nature and flesh. **Philippians 2:5-8**

5 Jesus, being the mediator, was given authority. Jesus, also being the Ancient of Days already had it, but it was laid aside in His role as the mediator. **Philippians 2:5-8** Humanity is now given the power over sin by Jesus’ receiving authority. In His union of man and God He is interceding for us at the right hand of the Father.

6 **John 5:19** "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. **John 8:28** I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. As the flesh dwelling mediator he laid aside his God privileges and took up human weakness. **Philippians 2:8-9** ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. He only did what the Father was doing. Jesus acted with God’s great authority, but as a servant-relying on the Father even as He was the Son incarnate.

7 Die of cancer? Elisha fed 100 men with 20 loaves of bread and some corn, and had leftovers! He healed a leper, and raised the dead—even after he was dead! Elisha died of a sickness however, not old age. This proves that in Christian ministry no one is using their own “super powers,” “the force,” or waving a magic wand, but doing what the Holy Spirit is doing. Disciples minister in the pattern of Jesus. We have power only as servants.

All the following answers come from these two grand answers.

1 The Lord’s sovereignty includes secondary causes and free will. God is free to use or not use them to accomplish His purposes.

2 Jesus is fully human and fully God and His ministry is that of the ‘mediator’.





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GROWING in grace and truth

SERVING Dubuque and the world



February 13, 2013

7:00pm

at GracePoint

Please join us for a special time of praise, prayer, Holy Communion,
and the imposition of ashes. Invite your friends and family.

All are welcome!