

WORDS OF GRACE

A Publication of GracePoint Church

New Covenant Relationships

Christ's New Covenant radically transforms how we can relate to one another. As we live in daily awareness that even our best second is stained with sin, that though we deserve eternal damnation every day, yet because of the New Covenant in Christ's blood, God declares us beloved sons and daughters! This enables us to live in the equation of grace: Much grace in equals much grace out.

To offer grace-giving relationships, we must hold the vision and conviction that there is always something better in the soul of every person, regardless of how good or bad they may be treating us at any given time. For the Christian, that something deeper and truer is the new self in Christ. For the non-Christian, that something deeper and better is the lingering image of God, and the hunger for God in every soul.

To be dispensers of grace, to offer New Covenant relating, we can always look past the hurtful behavior to discern the hurt, past the old self to draw out the new self, or past the sinner to see the potential child of God. The purpose and power of New Covenant relating is to move into each other's life in such a way as to release each other's glory, to polish

the image of God in another, to bring out the best, *the Christ*, in one another.

We can ask ourselves regularly: Does the way I am living in every area of my life and relationships reflect all the glory, grace, and freedom of the

"Make the most of every opportunity. Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out." Colossians 4:5-6 (MSG)

New Covenant? Or are there areas where I am still seeking to live out my faith under Old Covenant rule keeping, in rigidity, ritual, and a lack of grace toward others and toward myself? Where freedom is still needed, we seek restoration and repentance through Christ in the Holy Spirit within a spiritual friendship or with a spiritual director, as no one heals alone.

Christ's New Covenant frees you to live in the wild freedom of grace, through the power of the Holy Spirit, out of who you are in Christ! It is a life of reckless faith, relentless love, and redemptive hope. It is a life overflowing with unspeakable joy, unstoppable significance, and unleashed creativity!

Pastor Chris



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Office Hours

Tues-Wed, 9:30-11:30am

Thurs-Fri, 9:30am-1:30pm

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Published Monthly

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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GracePoint Elders

through January 2018

Equipping

Doug Mulder

Missional Outreach

Doug Storlie

Fellowship

Robin Wlochall

Prayer

Pam Hillary

Stewardship

Bob DeMeester

Dan Baker

Worship

Beverly VanDerZyl

GracePoint Deacons

through January 2018

Care

Group Deacon

- 1 Lisa Gaylor
- 2 Pauline Brimeyer
- 3 Shirley VanDuser
- 4 Janet Metelak
- 5 Barb Berg
- 6 Suz Birch
- 7 Nicole Roling
- 8 Carolyn Arnold

Deacon Moderator

Shirley VanDuser

Update on Future Ministry at GracePoint

In June, the Session voted unanimously to adopt a new way of doing ministry at GracePoint. It is called the Missional Soul Care Community Model. The 11-person Task Force worked diligently to bring to Session the new ministry model and to recommend ways to implement the model.

At the recent August Session meeting, the review of the Task Force recommendations was completed.

The next step is to share how soul care awareness is already taking place and to move ahead with the prioritized list of recommendations. The recent sermon/video series and the up-coming GracePath classes are designed to increase familiarity with Soul Care.

Ways to work out the priorities will happen through the elder ministry teams. Involvement of all the people in the congregation is crucial to giving ideas and energy to the ministry teams.

The prayers of the people are the most important part of making this transition go well. Please pray!

Goal: Restructure our time to foster more caring relationships.

GracePoint is the Light on the Hill.

We are a community of believers in Jesus Christ, who have deep relationships inside and outside the church.

As we thrive, we will continue to share the Gospel through development of soul care relationships with others, and pray they will join us on this grace-filled journey.

(Reference verse: Matthew 5:14 - 16)



PRECEPTS FOR FALL

First Corinthians

September 7 at 6:30pm
GRACEPOINT CHURCH, DUBUQUE

Overcoming divisions and difficulties in the body of Christ. Why are there so many divisions in the church? Why does the church sometimes turn a blind eye to sin? Learn the answers from Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth.

PUP workbook = \$27.00

In & Out Workbook = \$21.00

Please ask about a scholarship if you have the need.

**Contact Mary Hirschey at
mlhirschey@gmail.com.
GracePoint 563-583-3929**



GracePath for Adults — September 10 through November 26

This fall GracePath will begin with an all-church class entitled *All the Places to Go*.

Very rarely in the Bible does God command someone to “Stay.” He opens a door, and then he invites us to walk through it. How we choose to respond will ultimately determine the life we will lead and the person we will become.

In *All the Places to Go*, bestselling author John Ortberg opens our eyes to the countless doors God places before us every day, teaches us how to recognize them, and gives us the encouragement to step out in faith and to embrace all of the extraordinary opportunities that await.

Using this small group video study, our leaders will help participants recognize these doors and have faith to walk through them.

Teachers: Pastor Christopher English — Conference Room
Pam Hillary — Double Classroom

Participant Guide: Optional, but recommended. The participant guide contains video notes, discussion questions, suggestions for further study, and practical application ideas to enhance your understanding. \$7.00

Pill Bottle Fundraiser

Don't forget the Pill Bottle Fundraiser is in progress for use in mailing the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Boxes in November. Please save your change, put it in the bottles, and leave them in the FILLED basket on the shelf in the Connect Way.

Thank you!

Pat Kohler

GLOBAL MISSIONS UPDATE

Operation Christmas Child—A Shoe Box Story

I remember walking every day to school when I was young. Most of the time I went without any lunch because my parents couldn't afford to feed all of us a lunch. I was one of seven children, and we lived in a very poor area of Burkina Faso (in West Africa).

It was hard to even earn enough money for food, and nobody had money for gifts at Christmas. My parents did not buy things like toys or even many books to read.

When I received my first gift, in an Operation Christmas Child shoe box, it was a real blessing for me. We also listened to a presentation of the Gospel and received a copy of the Greatest Gift booklet. Though I had already accepted Christ a couple of years earlier and grown up in church, I was excited to read that book over and over to learn more about Him. I couldn't wait to see what was inside my shoe box, but I also looked forward to what God was going to do in my life.



We did not open our boxes at the event. We wanted to share the experience with our family. When I got home I opened the box up and saw all those wonderful gifts. There were toys and books, and what I especially enjoyed was my yo-yo. It was a special yo-yo, because at night it would just light up my dark neighborhood.

I wasn't just excited about having new toys and new things, though. I was also excited because I had never received a gift in my life, and I never expected it.

So, when Operation Christmas Child told me that people from the other side of the world cared about me, it helped me to experience even more thankfulness for God's faithfulness toward me. Who would ever think that God would use a simple light-up yo-yo in a shoe box to remind me of His love? I think back to that Saturday morning and to all the ways God has continued to be faithful to me since then. God has even used me to share His love with others in my country.

A few years after receiving that shoe box, I began another journey I didn't expect. When I was 12 years old I started a children's ministry in my neighborhood to teach others about Jesus Christ. Since then I've been able to share the love of God throughout my neighborhood and in many villages in Burkina Faso.

More recently, I've been involved in evangelism and discipleship as part of Operation Christmas Child. As I've taught The Greatest Journey discipleship program throughout my country, I have seen God change the hearts of many children. I've seen nine churches started as a result of Gospel seeds planted through The Greatest Journey project.

Today I live in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where I attend Bible college and am learning to be an even better teacher of God's Word.

by Désiré



2017

September

2017

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:05a Prayer Room 9:30a Worship 10:40a Fellowship Common Grounds Open	4 6:00p Food Pantry	5	6 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30p Bells	7 6:30p Precepts	8 6:30p Crossroads at Scheers'	9
10 8:30a Chapel 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Common Grounds Open 10:05a Prayer Room 10:30a Worship Kaiden Donovan reception follows 1:30p Bethany Home	11 6:00p Food Pantry 6:30p Property	12 5:30p Missional Outreach	13 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30p Deacons 6:30p Bells	14 6:30p Precepts	15 Newsletter Deadline	16
17 8:30a Chapel 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Common Grounds Open 10:05a Prayer Room 10:30a Worship Noon Woman to Woman Luncheon	18 6:00p Food Pantry	19	20 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast Noon—Golden Oldies 6:30p Session 6:30p Bells	21 6:30p Precepts	22	23
24 8:30a Chapel 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Common Grounds Open 10:05a Prayer Room 10:30a Worship	25 6:00p Food Pantry	26	27 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30p Bells	28 6:30p Precepts	29	30

Clerk's Report

MEMBERSHIP TO DATE

Active	129
Inactive	6
Total	135

The Pill Bottle Fundraiser is still in progress. Please take an empty bottle. Thank you in advance.

CORPORATE TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund:

Balance, July 1, 2017	\$81.06
Income	11,592.00
Expenses	-11,765.41
Transfers to Funds	-833.33
Ending Balance, July 31, 2017	\$-925.68

FINANCES Year-to Date through JULY

Budget Need (Jan – July):	\$116,300
Income Received:	\$105,900

Pat Kohler, Clerk of Session

Baptism Celebration

Kaiden Patrick Donovan, born June 21, will be baptized on Sunday September 10, during the 10:30 service.

Please join us in celebrating this holy event with a small reception in the fellowship center.



Friday September 15

Today's test is
tomorrow's
testimony.

*Got a story to
share?*

Glorify God.

Share a testimony.

Inspire hope.

Submit your story to
the office for an up-
coming newsletter
Story of Grace.

BIRTHDAYS

1 Brenda Schwarzmenn
 2 Juanita Cottrell
 4 Jerry Bell
 5 Patti Scheer
 6 Raymond Wlochall, Jr.
 18 Beverly VanDerZyl
 19 Ernest Loukinen
 19 Becky Pfeiffer
 19 Harry Vandenberg
 20 Mary Burns
 21 Kent Briden
 22 Barbara Berg
 22 Robert Birch
 25 Mary Ann Hopkins
 27 James Pfeiffer



ANNIVERSARIES

3 Kevin & Mary
 Hirschey
 10 Kevin & Melissa
 Donovan
 12 Tom & Mary Scherf

What's Brewing at Common Grounds?



• Open Hours

Sundays: 9am-11am

Watch for *Spirited Exchanges*, open conversations for young adults.

• Classes

Crossroads—See article and schedule.

• Live Video Streaming

Sundays beg. 9/10—10:30am

Watch Worship on TV.

AN UPDATE FROM PAUL BOTH

Paul Both reported on Facebook: We are rejoicing to share with all of our friends and our mission partners that we completed our third Leadership training and our Christian Stewardship training under the leadership of SSEM this past weekend, at Malow Presbytery on August 19 and 20.

Also, the Malow Presbytery raised interest in and funds for the church and for Lare Luallok Bible School. The Leadership group will go to another Presbytery this weekend, the Lord willing.

Paul continues: Our team has fully committed and dedicated time, energy, and resources to help our community, church, and our beloved two countries—South Sudan and Ethiopia—to train our church leaders and the members about how to utilize their gifts to be good stewards for God's resources.

Thanks be to God for granting us the time, resources, and chance to train our church leaders and our community leaders during this difficult and confusing time in our motherland.

Friends and mission partners, we would like you to know that your prayers and support are greatly appreciated and needed.

School Supplies

Your Missional Outreach Team is once again gathering/collecting school supplies for those kids in our schools who come from area families that are struggling to make ends meet. Please watch for back-to-school sales and see how many school supplies you might be able to purchase to help us give to the schools that need them for under-privileged children attending there. GracePoint has a reputation for being a 'giving' church and your Missional Outreach Team would like to see that tradition continue this year.

Thank you, GracePoint!

Your Missional Outreach Team

CROSSROADS

CROSSROADS is now gathering the second Friday of each month to share food, faith, and God's Word. We will begin at 6:30pm. All are welcome! Call Sue for more info at 563-583-4464.

The fall schedule is as follows:

September 8: Scheers', 16790 Carmen Oaks Dr., Durango

October 13: Lemons', 13454 North Cascade Rd.

November 10: Sanders', 1816 Churchill St.



PRAYER CHAIN

To start a prayer, call Pat Kohler.

Daytime Prayer Chain

Pat Kohler 583-8978

Gerry Vandenberg 583-5338

Ramona Hennings 583-8739

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

Glenda Temple 582-0464

Kim or Jerry Bell 582-4956

Barbara Berg 608-732-3035

Sharon Baker 451-4557

Karen Storlie 556-7548

Volunteers are Priceless at GracePoint!**Worship Venue 10:30am (beginning Sept. 10)**

Communion Preparers (September 3) Janet Metelak
Suz Birch

Communion Servers (September 3) Pam Hillary
Doug Mulder
Sue Lemon

	Ushers	Greeters	Prayer Room
Sep 3	Mike Boland Mike Vandenberg	Ben & Glenda Temple	Kelly English
Sep 10	Dwayne Intveld Martha Intveld	Andy & Ann Baumann	Doug Storlie
Sep 17	Doug Mulder Mike Vandenberg	Steve & Sue Lemon	Janet Metelak
Sep 24	Mike Boland Ben Temple	Doug & Karen Storlie	Karen Storlie

Please find your own subs. Substitute ushers are Mike and Ralph Vandenberg.
Substitute greeters are Pat Kohler and Dixie Shaffer.

ChildCare

Sep 3 - Janet Metelak, Rachel Lemon

Sep 10 - Anna English, Marilyn Learn

Sep 17 - Kelly English, Steve Lemon

Sep 24 - Sara Scherf, Carolyn Arnold

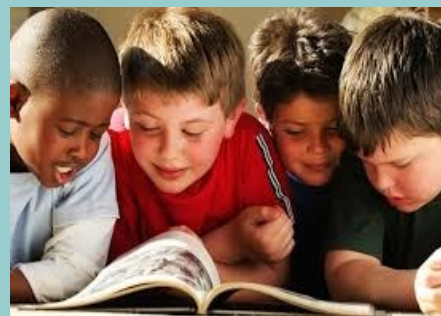
Check Out the Library

The library is open Sundays from 9:00am—noon. Videos and books are available for checkout.

Check out a book or video for your reading or viewing enjoyment.

Donations of new books or videos are always welcome. Questions?

Contact Bob Boelk, 557-9166.



Golden Oldies

Please join us for our September gathering.



Date

Wednesday, September 20

Venue

GracePoint Church
Fellowship Center

Time

Noon

Program

Jerry Bell, Sunset Park Place

Anyone 50 years and older is welcome.

This is a Potluck Lunch. Sign up in the Connect Center

Table service and drinks are provided.

Don't forget to sign up to bring treats for fellowship time on Sundays.

You may also honor a birthday, anniversary, or special event.

If baking is not your style, you may also bring a couple of packages of cookies to share.

Look for the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Center.

Contact Elder Robin Wlochall
or

Bell Choir

The Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 6, at 6:30pm.

We'd like to continue this tradition, so please come and join us!

Thanks,
Wilma





3100 Windsor Avenue
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GROWING in grace and truth

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Our Regular Worship Schedule Resumes September 10th!

With school back in session and Fall just around the corner, GracePoint will resume its regular Worship schedule and classes. The schedule is as follows.

Chapel @ 8:30am
GracePath @ 9:00am
Fellowship @ 10:00am
Prayer Room @ 10:05am
Worship @ 10:30am



Note:

- GracePath will begin with an all-church class, *All the Places to Go*.
 - Precepts Bible study begins on September 7th at 6:30pm.