

WORDS OF GRACE

A Publication of GracePoint Church

The Equation of Grace

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?”

Matthew 7:1-3

Every one of us remains in sinfulness until death and glory because sinfulness is not just what we do, but who we are apart from Christ. Christ reveals in Luke 7:47 that he or she *who is forgiven little, loves little*. The reverse is also true. Those who are forgiven much, love much. Much grace received = much grace given!

If you struggle with not loving, forgiving, or pouring grace toward *all* others, the dam blocking Christ's flow of grace is blindness to your own sinfulness. It is the proverbial ‘log in your own eye’ that keeps you from seeing the sins or different beliefs of others as a tiny splinter compared to your sin or ungraciously-held beliefs.

“... our calling is not to change, condemn, or confront others—we confront lies and issues—but to attract and invite others to the magnificent Christ!”

It is critical for Christ-followers not to hold on to shallow, naïve, hurtful views of deeply imbedded struggles, such as any addictive sin or sexual struggles. Each of us are born, due to our family lines, with certain propensities (not irreversible genetics) toward

particular areas of struggle. Then the depth of our struggle in that area is either intensified or lessened by our family of origin, early years, life situations, faith, and personal choices.

When our struggles are deeply rooted in our God-given temperament, personality, wiring, and identity, and/or early shaping events, they cannot be easily changed by simple calls to repentance, or sometimes not even through life-long intense repentance. Many of us will go to our graves with our particular area of deep struggle, only fully freed by death and glory.

In God's plan, present freedom and healing are not the point. God's glory and grace, and God preparing us for our current and eternal callings is the point. This requires unrelenting grace—abundant, copious, lavish, extravagant grace—perpetually poured upon ourselves and upon all others!

We call others to Christ, not to change! Then it is up to God *if He* wants to change anything about one of *His* children, *once* they become His children. And often God chooses not to change what *we* think should change! God has far deeper, far more important, and for more eternal of an agenda for our lives than our present healing or freedom.

Thus, our calling is not to change, condemn, or confront others—we confront lies and issues—but to attract and invite others to the magnificent Christ! We live, breathe, demonstrate, and share the Gospel Good News of God's irresistible grace, captivating goodness and beautiful glory!

Pastor Chris



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Dubuque, Iowa
583-3929
gracepointdbq.org

Office Hours
Mon–Fri, 9:00am–2:00pm
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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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Editor Karen Storlie
karen.storlie@gmail.com

GracePoint Elders

through January 2017

Equipping

Doug Mulder

Missional Outreach

Vic Learn

Bob De Meester

Fellowship

Wilma Sanders

Prayer

Pam Hillary

Stewardship

Mary Burns

Dan Baker

Worship

Beverly VanDerZyl

**GracePoint
Deacons**

through January 2017

Care

Group Deacon

- 1 Lisa Gaylor
- 2 Betty Carlson
- 3 Glenda Temple
- 4 Shirley VanDuser
- 5 Janet Metelak
- 6 Barb Berg
- 7 Suz Birch
- 8 Mary Ann Hopkins
- 9 Carolyn Arnold

Deacon Moderator

Shirley VanDuser

Come to Me

Come over to me, all you who are restless,
and I will teach you how to be quiet,
how to leave yourself alone.

Come over to me, all you who are anxious,
even if I don't take your anxiety away,
I will change it into fresh currency,
as you turn your cares
into greater belief in my caring.

Come over to me, all you who are lonely,
I was lonely, too,
and I could find no place
to lay my head.

Come over to me, all you who worry
what others think about you.
It doesn't matter.
They misunderstood me,
no matter what I did.

Come over to me, all you who are always
talking and pleading and explaining yourselves to others.
I know you inside out. I know the worst.
So you can come to me without any explanations.

Come over to me, all you whose great plans for yourself have failed.
You don't know how lucky you are.
And others, too.

Come over to me, all you who can't stand yourselves.
I touched lepers,
and once I called a man out of a tomb
who had been stinking there for four days.
So come over to me,
I can stand just about anything.

Come over to me, all you who can't stand other people.
I know what's behind their misery.
I know the worst in them
as I know it in you.
And I embrace you both.

Come over to me, all you who fret about the past.
I was there, I was part of your past,
and I have forgotten all about it.
So be like me and forget it, too.

Come over to me, all you who can't live peacefully in the present.
Come to me now, without reserve.
That is the way to live peacefully in the present.
Come over to me, all you who fear the future.
Do not fear. I am your future.

Fr. Thomas Dominic Rover (theologian, playwright, poet)

Precepts @ GracePoint

EXODUS: GOD SETS HIS PEOPLE FREE

Thursdays 6:30-8:30pm

Begins September 8

3100 Windsor Ave
Dubuque

Cost: \$25.00

This is not the Hollywood version, rather it is God's own story of how He freed His people from bondage, called them into covenant with Him and fulfilled His promises of land and descendants. This story of Israel sets the stage for the story of our freedom in Christ. Come learn how it all fits together beautifully in God's plan.

Call GracePoint's office 563-53-3929 to sign up.



Be aware of sales for school supplies this month! The items typically needed are crayons, erasers, pencils, colored pencils, spiral notebooks, and folders (each child is usually asked to bring 5-7 folders). There are often lists for grades 1-5 at the stores to use as a guide. The School Supplies Drive also accepts monetary donations to purchase supplies as needed. Questions? Contact Barb Berg at 608-763-2950 or 608-732-3035.

Thank You!



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY REGIONAL BLOOD CENTER

How life flows through our community.®

Thank you, thank you, thank you is the note from Mississippi Valley for our generous blood drive on July 6th. This drive will serve and save people at local hospitals. I am asked to express their appreciation to all who participated for their commitment to this mission! Summertime negatively impacts the inventory levels at the blood bank, so our support always makes a difference to many suffering illness and injury.

11 units of blood donated = 33 lives saved

Note: 16 people showed up to donate, but only 11 were able to donate.

Thank you to everyone who showed their support: donors (both willing and able); those who contributed food or helped with food preparation; and anyone who helped in any other way.

SEAL Team Leader: *Pam De Meester*



GLOBAL MISSIONS UPDATE

A Timely Message John & Becky Leverington

I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time."

1 Timothy 2:1-6

The Leveringtons joined Wycliffe Bible Translators in 1994 and ministered as counselors in Papua New Guinea. Next, John joined the International Counseling Ministries and traveled worldwide to respond to crisis situations. They were based out of Wycliffe International's Headquarters in Dallas, Texas, until recently.

In June of 2014, John and Becky opened the Olive Tree Counseling Center in Antalya, Turkey. Yes, Turkey, the country in the news because of a military coup and deaths of hundreds of people. Thankfully, the Leveringtons live on the Southeast Mediterranean coast of the country and were not affected directly. They send updates faithfully, so we know they are safe and know how to pray for them and their ministry.

Here are excerpts from the most recent update, 7/21/2016.

- The violence of last weekend has passed but the upheaval of what this means for the future of this beloved country remains very unclear. We continue to have people coming for counseling and see our purpose for being here even more clearly in the wake of these events.
- John traveled through Istanbul on his way to Thailand without any problems or even delays. He is serving workers there who are gathering from their work in many different countries with very high security risks. Pray for his presentations on living well after crisis events happen, transitions, and child safety training in addition to the counseling he will be doing.
- Please continue to pray for Becky as she manages all the responsibilities of Olive Tree Counseling Center in the wake of everything else that is happening. We are now scheduling debriefing for those impacted directly by the events of the past week.

More information and images are found on the website: <http://olivetrecounseling.org/>

Thank you, Congregation, for the support you give to God's servants around the world. Please continue to pray for John and Becky Leverington.

Submitted by *Beverly VanDerZyl*

for the Global Mission Team: *Scott Arnold, Ramona Hennings, Joseph Joseph, Pat Kohler, and Don Sanders.*

2016

August

2016

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:00p Food Pantry	2	3 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast	4 7:00p Emmaus	5	6
7 9:05a Prayer Room 9:30a Worship Service 10:40a Fellowship Common Grounds Open	8 6:00p Food Pantry 6:30p Property Team	9	10 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:00p Deacons	11	12	13
14 10:30a Worship in the Park Potluck to Follow 1:30p Bethany Home	15 Newsletter Deadline 6:00p Food Pantry	16	17 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30p Session	18	19	20
21 9:05a Prayer Room 9:30a Worship Service 10:40a Fellowship Common Grounds Open	22 6:00p Food Pantry	23	24 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 12:00p Golden Oldies	25 6:30p Session Workshop	26	27
28 9:05a Prayer Room 9:30a Worship Service 10:40a Fellowship Common Grounds Open	29 6:00p Food Pantry	30	31 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast			

Membership to Date

Active	149
Inactive	8
Perm. Inactive	4
Total	161

Clerk's Report

The Pill Bottle fundraiser is still in progress. We need bottles filled. See page 8.

Worship in the Park—Sunday, August 14th, at the Arboretum. Potluck after the service.

School Supplies Drive is starting collection. See page 3.

The July Session meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is on Wednesday, August 17th, at 6:30pm.

Treasurer's Report for June

Beginning Balance, June 1, 2016	\$4,742.30
Direct Transactions	.00
Income	13,353.30
Expenses	-12,950.57
Transfers	- 833.33
Ending Balance, June 30, 2016	\$ 4,311.70

Prepared by

Pat Kohler, Clerk of Session

BIRTHDAYS

3 J'Neane Briden
 3 Dwayne Intveld
 4 Kate Duehr
 5 Dave Gaylor
 7 Pam De Meester
 12 Nathan Donovan
 15 Mable Boelk
 15 Lorraine Scherf
 16 Glenn Scheer
 18 Nick Buol
 21 Katie Schwarzmann
 24 Steve Lemon
 25 Rev. Dana Perreard



ANNIVERSARIES

4 Gary & Kate Duehr
 5 Sharon & Paul Jensen
 8 Sherry & Jim Huston
 9 Dave & Lisa Gaylor
 10 Dan & Pauline Brimeyer
 13 Jennie & Bob Burns
 14 Ray & Robin Wlochall

Pill Bottle Fundraiser



An abundance of empty Pill Bottles have been received. At this time we don't need more. What we need now are pill bottles FILLED with pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and bills.

This money collected is used toward postage for the Shoe Boxes that are filled and wrapped at church. The cost to ship each Shoe Box is \$7.00. This money would otherwise come out of the Missional Outreach Fund, so whatever is collected in the

pill bottles and used for the Shoe Boxes then leaves funds Missional Outreach can use elsewhere.

The EMPTY pill bottles are in a basket on the shelf in the Connect Way. Please fill and return them to the basket marked FILLED pill bottles.

I thank all of you who participated in the PILL BOTTLE PROJECT last year, and hope you will continue. Let's make the PILL BOTTLE PROJECT bigger than last year, collecting more money for the shipping of the Shoe Boxes.

Pat Kohler

Operation Christmas Child

Missional Outreach Ministry Team

What's Brewing at Common Grounds?



- **Open Hours**

Sundays: 9am-11am

- **Live Video Streaming**

Sundays: 9:30am

Watch Worship on TV.

Stories OF Grace

Following the Golden Thread of Hope

Welcome to Stories of Grace! Each month we will feature a story of how God's grace carried one of us through difficult times, and how we continue to experience the transforming power of this grace in our lives.

We welcome anyone wishing to share their story. Contact the office for more information.

During the years before we retired, we found a wonderful organization called Wycliffe Bible Translators (WBT), and the more we learned about what they did, the more we wanted to be part of this ministry. We contacted them when we retired, and over the next 15 or so years we spent time volunteering with them in California, Oregon, North Carolina, Florida, and Texas, as well as going to Ivory Coast, West Africa and to Peru. Each of these volunteer trips offered us some challenging experiences along with a great opportunity to meet many wonderful Christians who spent much of their working careers on one or more translation projects for WBT. In the last 60 years, WBT has completed more than 1,000 projects for Bible-less people around the world. One of these trips involved some Godly intervention to keep us safe and allow us to complete what we were asked to do.

Twenty years ago WBT contacted us and asked us to consider volunteering at least three months in Ivory Coast, West Africa, to allow one of their members to return to the States for a time. We had never traveled like this before, on our own without a tour guide, so to speak, so we had some reservations about taking the assignment. But after some prayer, we agreed to go. Our travel took us to Lagos, Nigeria, where we were to catch a plane to Abidjan, Ivory Coast. It was late at night when we landed and we were told that our next flight was cancelled and we were to collect our bags with no understanding of where we were to go from there. This was not a real nice airport as we are familiar with in the United States, but we kind of slept on our bags as best we could. We waited for some hope of getting to Abidjan, and finally the next night we were told that a flight would be available, so after more or less "repurchasing" our passports, we finally got to Abidjan very late at night. We had no way of contacting the WBT folks who were to pick us up so we decided we would have to spend another night in a foreign airport and see what we could do the next morning. We were very tired and a bit frightened with our current state of travel when this gentleman approached us. He spoke English (Ivory Coast is a French-speaking country) and said he could get us to a hotel. The real question for us was whether we could trust him or not, but we felt we had little alternative. We experienced more problems getting to the hotel, but we finally got a decent place. We can't recall if we paid for the taxi or not, but we were too tired to deal with it then. We got a few hours of sleep, got up the next morning, called WBT and Audrey Joslin came and drove us to the WBT complex. On the way, Audrey told us she met the first flight (it was not cancelled as we were informed in Lagos) and they (WBT) didn't know where we were.

Audrey shared with us that she woke up at 1:30am with the clear feeling that someone needed prayer, and she spent considerable time praying for that need. This was the exact same time that the English speaking man came to us and volunteered to help us find a hotel. Even though this happened almost 20 years ago, you will never convince us that this wasn't God at work as we really needed the right person to help us. After this, we had a good experience working for almost three months in Ivory Coast for Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Don & Wilma Sanders

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 9:30am

Communion Preparers (August 7) Carolyn Arnold, Lisa Gaylor

Communion Servers (August 7) Steve & Sue Lemon
Ben & Glenda Temple

	Ushers	Greeters	Prayer Room
August 7	Dwayne Intveld Martha Intveld	Vic Learn Marilyn Learn	Pam Hillary
August 14	Doug Mulder Ed Boettner	Dan Baker Sharon Baker	Worship in the Park
August 21	Ben Temple Glenda Temple	Glenn Scheer Sandy Tilton	Patti Scheer
August 28	Janet Metelak Mike Boland	Rebeka Godwin Bev VanDerZyl	Doug Storlie

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

ChildCare

August 7 Martha Intveld, Janet Metelak
 August 14 **No Child Care: Worship in the Park**
 August 21 Kelly English, Anna English
 August 28 Marilyn Learn, Glenda Temple

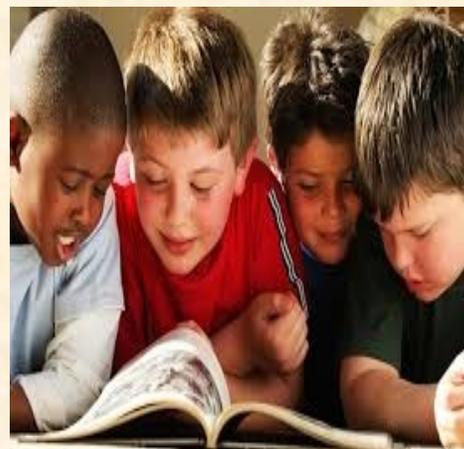
Check Out the Library

The library is open Sundays from 9:00am—11:00am.

Videos and books are available for checkout.

Stop by on Sunday to see the recently updated library!

Donations of new books or videos are always welcome. Questions? Contact Bob Boelk, 557-9166.



Golden Oldies

Date

Wednesday, August 24, 2016

Time

Noon

Venue

GracePoint Church, Fellowship Hall

Program

Speaker from Hillcrest Family Services

- ◆ Sign up in the Connect Way.

- ◆ This is a planned potluck, so when signing up, please put down what you are bringing. Table service and drinks provided!

- ◆ All church members and friends are invited.

Please contact Bob Boelk @ 563-557-9166 with questions.



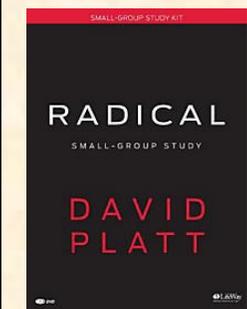
**Monday
August 15**

GracePath for Adults

Module 1—September 2016

This fall GracePath will begin with an all-church class along with an accompanying sermon series. Two different teachers will lead the class in two different locations during the usual GracePath time.

Class: Radical



Description: Radical is a 6-class Bible study for adults by David Platt. Platt invites us to encounter what Jesus actually said about being his disciple, and to obey what we hear. He challenges us to consider with an open heart how we manipulate a God-centered gospel to fit our human-centered preferences. Combining the messages of Radical and Radical Together, this resource will help us discover what could happen if the message of Radical was lived out by every member of the church.

Sessions:

Session 1: Radical Abandonment

Session 4: Radical Strategy

Session 2: Radical Grace

Session 5: Radical Vision

Session 3: Radical Focus

Session 6: Radical God

The class will challenge individuals to discover a true biblical worldview that dramatically affects daily lives and provides a fresh vision for an individual and a church's mission in the world.

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

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

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





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Dubuque, IA 52001-8154

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GROWING in grace and truth

SERVING Dubuque and the world



**WORSHIP
& PICNIC
IN THE
PARK**

Date
August 14

Time
10:30am

Venue
Dubuque Arboretum

A potluck will be held after the service.
Drinks provided.