

# WORDS OF GRACE

A Publication of GracePoint Church

## The Plentiful Harvest

*“And (Christ) said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Luke 10:2*

Christ declares, *“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.”* There is no shortage of people longing for salvation. The only shortage is among Christians willing to go into the harvest.

How do you see the harvest? Do you see most people as just on the verge of being embraced by grace or teetering on the brink of falling into hell? The gospel is the former. When Christ looks around, He does not see vile sinners that He cannot wait to condemn. He sees broken, wounded, captive people desperately needing the abundant forgiveness and freedom that He came to bring.

God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world. God is doing everything He can to bring every person possible into the kingdom. The greatest sin is to refuse grace, or to place limits on God’s grace.

Christ is telling us, “Look around—look around at the 90,000 plus people in Dubuque County, and the thousands more in the tri-state area, and see that my grace is ready to

pounce upon every one of them. There is no shortage of hungry and hurting people, only a shortage of my followers so consumed with my compassion that they cannot help but go into the harvest.”

We are Christ and kingdom. If ministries lack, it is because God’s people spend more on themselves than ministry. If evil is winning, it is because God’s people are not fully engaged in the war. God’s answer to the hurting people and the injustice in your neighborhood, your school, your

Our God is a God  
of plentiful  
redemption,  
extravagant grace,  
and lavish love.

family circle, your work, the world, is you!  
Father and Son and Spirit are rich, loving, generous, and indulgent parents who delight in spoiling

their children! The Father has given all the glory and riches of the kingdom to the Son, and the Son can barely wait another second to share all that He has with us. Everything God gives us is good, even those things that seem impossible to bear. This is our gospel, and it is *good* news!

Our God is a God of plentiful redemption, extravagant grace, and lavish love. What is God’s name? “Yahweh, Jeshua, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving kindness!”

*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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*Editor Karen Storlie*  
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**GracePoint Elders**

through 2014

EquippingMary Hirschey  
Stephanie LangeMissional OutreachPam De Meester  
Ken GodwinFellowshipRay Wlochal  
Wilma SandersPrayer

Pam Hillary

StewardshipAndy Baumann  
Mary Burns  
Doug StorlieWorship

Beverly VanDerZyl

**GracePoint****Deacons**

through 2014

Care  
Group Deacon

1. Sue Lemon
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

## Important Note from Your Financial Stewardship Team

The Finance Team continues to work to establish “best practices” regarding our financial recordkeeping. Effective January 1, 2014, when requesting a check for expenses paid on behalf of GracePoint, you must use the Check Request form available in the office. This will always be the most current version of the form, and any future revisions will be on this form. Only requests presented on this form with proper approval will be accepted. If an item is received without a properly completed form, it will be returned to the presenter. This procedure is in keeping with our desire to make our financial matters as transparent, consistent, and efficient as possible.

Once the form is filled out and approved by the appropriate person, **checks for approved expenses will be issued on Thursday** and either mailed as directed or put in the Elder’s mailbox, the Deacon Moderator’s mailbox, or the Pick Up mailbox, as is appropriate. If the approving Elder is not available during the time reimbursement is needed, the Elder to Finance has been granted authority to approve expenses in that absence.

Bills will continue to be paid as received once the proper Check Request form is completed and approval is signed. Exceptions to this policy are recurring monthly items, such as utilities, payroll, and insurance, which are pre-approved to be paid.

Questions may be directed to Mary Burns, Elder to Finance.

Thank you!



**April 17, 2014**

**7:00pm**

**GracePoint**

Our Maundy Thursday gathering is in commemoration of the Last Supper of Jesus. We will be following the Stations of the Cross and participating in the Lord’s Supper.

## *5th Annual Concert of Prayer*

*May 17th, 8:00am to 1:00pm  
Saturday morning  
at Four Mounds*

### *Where Two or More Are Gathered*

*Breakfast Prayer Worship Music  
Prayer Walk Lunch (\$12)*

*Please join us for a special morning!  
A sign-up sheet will be in the  
pass-through to the Fellowship Center  
by May 13th, or call the church office (583-3929).*



Wednesday  
April 16

## **CHRIST IN THE PASSOVER**

**April 10, 2014, 7:00pm  
GracePoint**

What do the Jewish Passover and Jesus' last supper have in common? Our speaker from Jews for Jesus will answer that question as he presents "Christ In the Passover." You'll gain wonderful insights on how the pieces of God's plan of salvation fit together, and you'll remember this visual display of the Passover pageantry for years to come. Be sure to invite your friends and family.



### The Triumph of the Resurrection

*For the trumpet will sound,  
and the dead will be raised imperishable,  
and we shall be changed.*

*When the perishable puts on the imperishable,  
and the mortal puts on immortality,  
then shall come to pass the saying that is written:*

*“Death is swallowed up in victory.”*

*“O death, where is your victory?*

*O death, where is your sting?”*

*The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.*

*But thanks be to God,*

*who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!*

*Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters,  
be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,  
knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

1 Corinthians 15:52-58

N. T. Wright, in commenting on this passage, declares this...

“You are not oiling the wheels of a machine that’s about to fall over a cliff. You are not restoring a great painting that’s shortly going to be thrown in the fire. You are not planting roses in a garden that’s about to be dug up for a building site.

You are – strange though it may seem, almost as hard to believe as the resurrection itself – accomplishing something which will become, in due course, part of God’s new world.

Every act of love, gratitude and kindness; every work of art or music inspired by the love of God and delight in the beauty of his creation; every minute spent teaching a severely handicapped child to read or to walk; every act of care and nurture, of comfort and support, for one’s fellow human beings, and for that matter one’s fellow non-human creatures; and of course every prayer, all Spirit-led teaching, every deed which spreads the gospel, builds up the church, embraces and embodies holiness rather than corruption, and makes the name of Jesus honored in the world – all of this will find its way, through the resurrecting power of God, into the new creation which God will one day make. It will last all the way into God’s new world. In fact, it will be enhanced there.”

“Surprised by Hope,” p 208



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.

# GLOBAL MISSIONS

## Jews for Jesus

Jews for Jesus is the oldest mission on GracePoint's support list; after all, it has been around (as their mantra goes) "since 32 A.D., give or take a year." According to the mission's website at [www.jewsforjesus.org](http://www.jewsforjesus.org), the joke reminds people that a minority of Jewish people have always believed and proclaimed the gospel, and the ministry follows in that same tradition.

The website's history page explains, "Actually, 'Jews for Jesus' began as a slogan. In the late 1960s, a moving of the Holy Spirit brought thousands of cause-oriented young people to faith in Jesus, many of whom were Jewish. As for our organization, Moishe Rosen officially founded Jews for Jesus in September of 1973.

Rosen, a veteran missionary to the Jewish people, was the executive director of the mission for 23 years. He revolutionized evangelistic methods and materials with his creative approach to communicating the gospel, and we believe he was the foremost strategist and tactician in the field of Jewish evangelism."

The organization explains the approach used to reach people. "Jewish people tend to dismiss evangelistic methods and materials that are couched in Christian presuppositions and lingo, because they reinforce the assumption that Jesus is for 'them' not 'us'." In this regard, Jews for Jesus uses humor, conversational tone, and testimonies of Jewish people in their printed materials. They create Jewish gospel music and drama to use as part of their street witnessing. The messiahship of Jesus becomes an unavoidable issue to Jewish people in major population centers because of the aggressive use of the secular media. Internet Evangelism, along with a presence on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and SecondLife are other effective tools used by Jews for Jesus to reach people.

GracePoint will have the wonderful opportunity to see one of the ways the ministry reaches people when a representative comes to present "Christ in the Passover" at our church. (See details in this newsletter.)

The Global Missions Team is honored to allocate a part of our congregation's generous giving to missions to the Jews for Jesus mission organization.

Beverly VanDerZyl, Member and Session Liaison, Global Missions Team



2014



2014

| Sunday   | Mon                         | Tue                      | Wed  | Thu   | Fri  | Sat |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|--|-----|
|  |                             | 1<br><br>6:30p Precepts  | 2<br>6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst<br>9:00a Precepts<br><br>5:30p Hand Bells  | 3<br><br>6:30p GU<br>Worship Band                                     | 4  | 5   |
| 6<br>8:30a Chapel Service<br>9:00a GracePath<br>10:00a Fellowship Time<br>10:30a Worship Service<br><br>6-8p GraceUnderground  | 7<br><br>6:00p Food Pantry  | 8<br><br>6:30p Precepts  | 9<br>6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst<br>9:00a Precepts<br><br>5:30p Hand Bells<br>7:00p Deacons Meeting   | 10<br><br>6:30p GU<br>Worship Band<br>7:00p Christ in<br>the Passover | 11<br><br>6:30p—9:00p<br>Game Night  | 12  |
| 13<br><b>Palm Sunday</b><br>8:30a Chapel Service<br>9:00a GracePath<br>10:00a Fellowship Time<br>10:30a Worship Service<br><br>1:30p Bethany Home<br><br>6-8p GraceUnderground | 14<br><br>6:00p Food Pantry | 15<br><br>6:30p Precepts | 16<br>6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst<br>9:00a Precepts<br><br>5:30p Hand Bells<br>7:00p Elder Ministry<br>Teams | 17<br><br>7:00p Maunday<br>Thursday                                   | 18   | 19  |
| 20<br><b>Resurrection Sunday</b><br>6:00a Sunrise Service at<br>the River Room<br><br>10:00a Fellowship Time<br>10:30a Worship Service<br><br>No GraceUnderground              | 21<br><br>6:00p Food Pantry | 22                       | 23<br>6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst<br><br><br>5:30p Hand Bells<br>6:30p Session  | 24<br><br>6:30p GU<br>Worship Band                                    | 25<br><br><div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Presbytery</div> | 26  |
| 27<br>8:30a Chapel Service<br>9:00a GracePath<br>10:00a Fellowship Time<br>10:30a Worship Service<br><br>6-8p GraceUnderground   | 28<br><br>6:00p Food Pantry | 29                       | 30<br>6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst<br><br>5:30p Hand Bells   |   |  |     |

## Membership to Date:

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Active         | 143 |
| Inactive       | 8   |
| Perm. Inactive | 3   |
| Total          | 154 |

|  |
|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CLERK'S<br/>REPORT</b></p> |
|--|

Death of Viola Wright on February 26th; Funeral Services March 3, 2014, at Funeral Home. Internment Linwood Cemetery. Rev. Christopher English officiated. Jews for Jesus Presentation, Thursday April 10, 7:00pm. Game Night, Friday, April 11th, 6:30—9:00pm.

Maundy Thursday Services, April 17th, 7:00pm. Easter Sunrise Service, April 20th, 6:00am at River Room in the Grand River Center. No Chapel Service or GracePath classes March 20th. Worship Service – 10:30am.

### Bookkeepers Report

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| General Fund Beginning Balance, February 1, 2014 | \$7,986.17        |
| Total General Fund Receipts                      | <u>16,704.00</u>  |
| Subtotal Beginning Balance & Receipts            | \$24,690.17       |
| General Fund Disbursements                       | \$16,032.91       |
| Allocations and Transfers                        | <u>\$1,474.99</u> |
| Subtotal Disbursements, Allocations & Transfers  | \$17,507.90       |
| General Fund Ending Balance, February 28, 2014   | \$7,182.27        |

Pat Kohler, Clerk of Session

## *A New Children's Ministry Begins During the Month of April*

**WHO:** Children in kindergarten through third grade

**WHAT:** A time to build relationships and experience age-appropriate worship

**WHEN:** During the preparation song and sermon time of the 10:30 worship venue

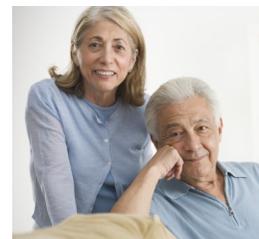
**WHERE:** In the GraceCompany story room downstairs

**HOW:** With a team of at least 8 people to rotate leading and always a second person to assist: with a pre-planned set of stories, scripture, songs, prayer, and activities

**WHY:** To demonstrate to the future Church how important they are to the Body of Christ, especially at GracePoint

GraceCompany worshippers will meet each Sunday throughout the year. Watch for more information in the bulletin, and contact a member of the organizing SEAL team if you have questions or feel called to serve as a leader or helper. Please pray for the effective launching of this new ministry.

SEAL Team: Ann Kress, Sara Scherf, and Beverly VanDerZyl



## GOLDEN OLDIES

Watch the bulletin for the April details.

Sign up in the lobby the Sunday before or call Bob Boelk, 557-9166.

**ALL SENIORS ARE  
WELCOME!**



## BIRTHDAYS

2 James Huston  
 5 Kylie Donovan  
 5 Betty Muellich  
 5 Tom Scherf  
 6 Brianna Bell  
 7 Chase Barsema  
 7 Ken Godwin  
 12 Benjamin Godwin  
 14 Glenda Temple  
 17 Melissa Donovan  
 17 Judy Godwin  
 17 Sara Scherf  
 18 Ralph Vandenberg  
 25 Matthew Duehr  
 26 Debi Hakanson  
 26 Dorothy Thomas  
 27 Diane McIlrath  
 29 Marla Irion



## ANNIVERSARIES

4 Ben & Glenda Temple  
 12 Victor & Marilyn Learn  
 27 Pete & Jan Jenner  
 28 Dan & Sharon Baker

# Check Out the Library

There is always something new in the library, and it is open Sundays from 8:30am till noon.

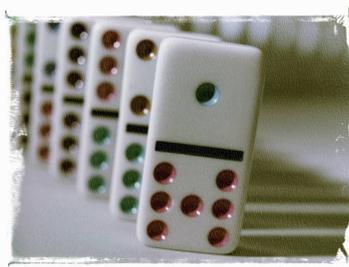
Donations of new books or videos are always welcome. Contact Mable or Bob Boelk, 557-9166.



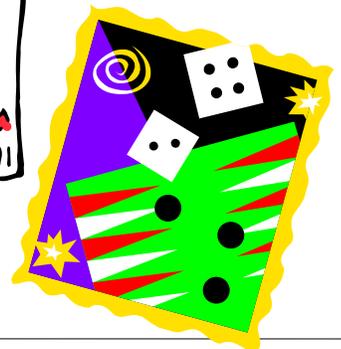
## Pantry Needs

Our pantry is in great need of plastic grocery bags and the long narrow plastic bags that newspapers come in. If you have any of these bags, please leave them on top of the coat rack by the kitchen. Someone from the pantry will collect them. This is not necessarily a one-time thing. You can bring plastic bags for the pantry all year round.

## Game Night Friday, April 11, 2014 6:30—9:00pm



Bring your favorite game and a snack. All ages are welcome. The fellowship committee will furnish the drink. If you have questions, contact Bob Boelk (557-9166) or Tony Trenkamp (552-2680).



From  
Emiliano Pech, a church  
member of Dios Es Amor



“Thank you every one for the hard working. These (pictures) are the  
evidence of your hard working.  
GOD BLESS YOU!”

(Message and pictures received in an office e-mail on March 19.)

**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
- 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  
451-4557
- Glenda Temple  
582-0464
- Karen Storlie  
556-7548
- Kim or Jerry Bell  
582-4956

**Volunteers Are Priceless at GracePoint!**

**Worship Venue 10:30am**

**Communion Preparers** (April 6) Barb Berg, Betty Carlson

**Communion Servers** (April 6) Doug Storlie, Steve Lemon  
Joe & Mary Burns

|                 | Ushers                         | Greeters            | Prayer Room       |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>April 6</b>  | Doug Mulder<br>Pam Hillary     | LeRoy & Barb Berg   | Beverly VanDerZyl |
| <b>April 13</b> | Doug Mulder<br>Pam Hillary     | Dan & Sharon Baker  | Betty Carlson     |
| <b>April 20</b> | Andy Baumann<br>Ed Boettner    | LeRoy & Barb Berg   | Mary Ann Hopkins  |
| <b>April 27</b> | Ed Boettner<br>Mike Vandenberg | Ben & Glenda Temple | Karen Storlie     |

**ChildCare**

- April 6 Sara Scherf, Ann Kress
- April 13 Martha Intveld, Beverly VanderZyl
- April 20 Alex Wiest, Sue Lemon
- April 27 Pam De Meester, Carolyn Arnold

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

**A Note from Lois Trausch-Wolfe**

I want to thank my GracePoint church family for all the prayer, cards, visits, food, and again—prayer—during my illness. I would especially like to thank Pastor Chris, Pastor Dana, Andrew, and my deacon Janet Metelak! You are all family and so much appreciated!

I also want to ask you all for prayer that my heart heals. I have surgery needed to be able to function well and to remove pain, but the surgeries cannot be considered until my heart is healed and strong enough.

Thank you!

# GraceUnderground

Schedule of Events: April

- April 3<sup>rd</sup>—Worship Band Practice: 6:30-7:45 PM
- April 6<sup>th</sup>—GraceUnderground: 6-8 PM
- April 10<sup>th</sup>—Worship Band Practice: 6:30-7:45 PM
- April 13<sup>th</sup>—GraceUnderground: 6-8 PM
- April 17<sup>th</sup>—**NO Worship Band Practice: Maundy Thursday**
- April 20<sup>th</sup>—**NO GraceUnderground: Easter**
- April 24<sup>th</sup>—Worship Band Practice 6:30-7:45 PM
- April 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>—30 Hour Famine
- April 27<sup>th</sup>—GraceUnderground: 6-8 PM

Well, the month of March has been pretty quiet compared to February, but we had some good times and I have watched the teens grow in some pretty amazing ways. Our musical skills have collectively gotten substantially better, and worship time during youth group is a blast, thanks to my wonderful worship team; so I thank all who have been putting in the hard work to learn the songs.

The month of April has a little more excitement as we are partaking in 30 Hour Famine, an event sponsored by World Vision in which, through fasting for 30 hours, we raise awareness for starvation around the world and funds to aide World Vision's mission.



I hope in the month of April we can continue to grow closer to each other as a group and grow closer to God through our worship and celebration of Easter.

Blessings,  
Andrew



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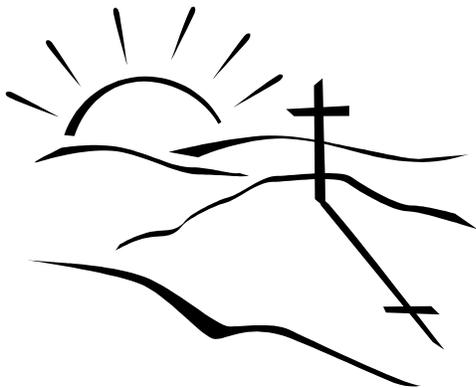
**GLORIFYING GOD BY**

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**Sunrise Service**

April 20, 2014, 6:00am

River Room, Grand River Center

Please join us for a deeply moving reminder of the resurrection  
of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This is a joint service with First Baptist Church,  
First Presbyterian Church, and GracePoint.

Everyone is welcome!