

WORDS OF GRACE

A Publication of GracePoint Church

Reconciling Grace

In the family of God *“there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.*

Colossians 3:11

God’s cure for racism, prejudice, and all division is the grace-filled community of God’s new humanity in Christ, the family of God. Even though many individual congregations do not represent well the diversity of God’s kingdom, in the global body of Christ we do see people from all tribes, tongues, colors, races, and nations worshipping in unity our resurrected King Jesus.

We are witnessing in our country a rise in violent expressions of racism, bigotry, prejudice, and division. Our country, indeed our world throughout all history, has always been marked by hatred between people groups. It is at the core of human sinfulness. Thus, the healing of racism and prejudice in our city, churches, and country begins with you. It begins with each of us inviting the Holy Spirit to expose any drop of racism, prejudice, or bigotry in our own hearts.

“The healing of racism and prejudice in our city, churches, and country begins with you.”

In the family of God, there is to be no division, no jealousy, no prejudice, no

racism, and no inequality. We all are prejudiced in some area. The more we are aware of our propensity to quickly judge others by their looks, their social status, their color, their ethnicity, their lifestyle, or their beliefs, the more we daily repent of this hateful prejudice. The more we daily repent of our hatred, the more Christ’s grace and love flows through us.

We are to be ambassadors of reconciliation. Whenever you see or hear people talking negatively about people of a different race, social status, or education level, or for whatever reason, you are called both to *not* join in and to speak up against all prejudice and bigotry.

No one fits into one little box or category. Every person is far too complex. People are not *just* terrorist, *just* their crime or sin, *just* their political or theological beliefs, and certainly not *just* their race, ethnicity, or nationality. The alleviation of racism and prejudice is to honor *every* person as either a beloved child of God or a potential beloved child of God. Let us always choose to move toward others in ways that enhance their God-ordained dignity, honor, and glory.

The resolution of racism and prejudice is not to become color blind, as this denies the uniqueness of God’s diversity. The cure is to become color-full! We want our hearts, homes, and churches to embrace, celebrate, and reflect the color-full kingdom of God!

Pastor Chris



3100 Windsor Avenue
Dubuque, Iowa
583-3929
gracepointdbq.org

Office Hours
Mon–Fri, 9:00am–2:00pm
Volume 20, Issue 6
June 2016
Published Monthly

GLORIFYING GOD BY

CONNECTING
people to God

LOVING
God and each other

GROWING
in grace and truth

SERVING
Dubuque and the world

Pastor Chris English
pastorchris@gracepointdbq.org
Asst. Pastor Dana Perreard
pastordana@gracepointdbq.org
Youth Director
youth@gracepointdbq.org
Admin. Asst. Seabelo Montwedi
office@gracepointdbq.org
Clerk of Session Pat Kohler
pkteada@yahoo.com
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

The World Is Not Our Oyster

"... do not worry about your life. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself."

Matthew 6:25, 34

God promises us *He knows well the plans he has in mind for us, plans for our welfare and not for our woe, so as to give us a future of hope.* (Jeremiah 29:11) Even so, the challenge is to learn to trust when we don't understand; to submit to this promise when our feeble minds cannot grasp how He is possibly working for our good in the midst of pain and adversity.

It becomes even more difficult to surrender, trust, and completely depend on God's providence in a world that praises independence and shuns weakness, a world that encourages only one kind of success. The shame that can overcome us because we haven't achieved all we should at our age threatens even the strongest of faith. Without our realizing it, the same messages meant to build up and encourage set us up for disappointment. "You can be anything you want." "Dream big and you will achieve success beyond your wildest dreams." "The world is your oyster." The truth is, the world is not our oyster, we cannot be *anything* we want, and there is no guarantee that we will gain the success we dream of.

James cautions us against this kind of presumption: *Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow . . . Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."* (James 4:13-14a, 15) Do we then stop dreaming, planning, and discerning? By no means, no! God does not call us to live as drones and simply sleep-walk through life, or to become puppets at the mercy of the Master Puppeteer. Rather, He calls us to an intimate relationship of sharing our desires and plans with Him in earnest openness and confidence, trusting that if we're on the right path, He will grant us what we ask for, and if not, He will gently change our desires, and show us the way we should walk—the way that leads to sanctity.

So, instead of relying on our own intelligence and anxiously clutching to our plans, we learn to let go and let God, choosing to trust in Him with all our trembling hearts. But trust is not a passive state of mind—an excuse to shut down and refuse to engage in life. Trust is a vigorous act of the soul choosing to cling to God and praise Him even when it hurts. Trust sometimes demands that we painfully bend our will to God's promises even when it makes no sense at all to believe that He is on our side.

Now, I do not know how God will work for us or how life will turn out. I cannot promise you that you will get what you want, or that it won't hurt when you don't. But tomorrow will take care of itself. It may not be how you imagined; sometimes God's providence comes as a meager slice of bread—just enough strength to walk one more mile. Sometimes He works out His glory right where we are; God's promise to the exiles was fulfilled after seventy years (Jeremiah 29:10). In these moments, we learn that God's prosperity surpasses material wealth—a strengthening of faith is prosperity.

By all means, wrestle with God if you must (look to the Psalms for inspiration), but do not turn away from Him. Do not close your heart and give in to rebellion—you will pay a much higher price than if you would have clung to Him in trust. Cry out to Him when your heart feels too heavy, but do not give in to despair for too long lest you miss the signs of His presence, providence, and grace. Whatever you do, trust that He knows what you need and will provide. Perhaps in time you will learn to sing heartfelt praise when the cupboards are empty as when they are full.

Peace and Christ's love,

Seabelo.

Live @ GracePoint!

**Monday Music &
Prayer Night**

June 6, 2016

6:00pm

Begin with prayer.

8:00pm

Finish with music.

Season Finale!

**Please join us
for the last
night of the
season.**



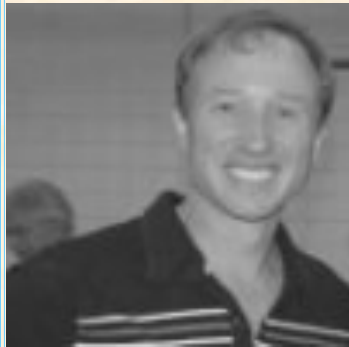
Glorify God in prayer
and worship.

Enjoy God through the
gifts of musical, visual,
and culinary (decaf es-
presso) art.

Glorify God by gather-
ing Christians together
in the spirit of unity and
hospitality.

Celebrate God by enjoy-
ing the gift of a sacred
“3rd place,” a place to
love and relate to each
other as family in
Christ.

Glorify God by inviting
unchurched and de-
churched friends to cel-
ebrate and enjoy with
us.



Farewell, Pastor Dana!

On May 18 at the regular monthly Session meet-
ing, the elders unanimously, with regret, accept-
ed the resignation of Pastor Dana Perreard as
GracePoint’s Associate Pastor of Worship. Dana
requested the ending date of July 4 so he can
begin his full-time ministry as the University of Dubuque’s Director of
Worship and Assistant Chaplin on July 5.

Watch for more information about a Perreard Celebration on July 3, their
last Sunday with us. A basket will be available in the Connect Way for
your farewell wishes and cards.

Session Report

Future Ministry Goal Planning

Society is rapidly changing, and it is again time for GracePoint to review and revise its Ministry Goals going forward.

- Need to plan for the next 5 - 10 years.
- Determine a way to measure 'success'.

Session has held four Workshops so far.

1. Measuring Success

- a. Historically, church success has been linked primarily to growth in numbers.
- b. In current society, there is no interest in sitting in a church service , as evidenced by the declining church attendance country-wide.
[Reference extensive research presented by Pastor Chris in 2013.]
- c. A different measure is needed.

2. Facing the Paradigm Shift in Ministry

- a. We grieve the lack of numerical growth despite all our efforts for the last 10 years.
- b. We grieve the unwillingness of the local and national society to commit to the organized church, which will impede any future significant numerical growth.
- c. We celebrate the successes in caring relationships.
- d. We now need to determine how to change the GracePoint Ministry Model to reach the neighborhood in new ways.

3. Future Ministry Model

- a. Determine the best use of our time, talents, and resources.
- b. Revise ministry based on kingdom preferences.
- c. Determine the best way to further build soul-care relationships.
- d. Measure success by the soul-care relationships.

4. Ministry Model Implementation

- a. Session will outline the Ministry Model.
- b. A Congregational Taskforce will be appointed this fall to work out the details and implement the new model.

For the Session,
Bob De Meester



GLOBAL MISSIONS UPDATE

Our Lord's Missionaries in Europe



Chris and Kirsten Furr are missionaries from Evangelical Presbyterian Church [EPC]. They began their ministry in France. Recently Chris was asked to take up a leadership role and has moved into such a position.

Europe

According to a 2015 survey, Europe has 84% Christians, 8% non-believers/agnostics, 1.56% atheists, and 5.7% Muslims.

We are also aware of recent events in Europe via large scale migration of people from Syria, Iraq, Turkey, and North African countries to Europe. This of course has stretched the resources of destination countries to the limits. An unfortunate byproduct of this migration is the public exhibition of religious intolerance. Chris and Kirsten Furr have been called to work in these circumstances. They are obeying the command of our Lord to make disciples of all nations.

19 Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Matt. 28:19-20 (ASV)

The Lord wishes all to repent and come to the saving knowledge . . . ***not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 2 Pet. 3:9 (ASV)***

What can we do?

- a. Pray for Chris and Kirsten Furr and their children Maren, Reece, and Carlson.
- b. Ask the Lord for His directions, and wait on Him.
- c. Never make any attempt to advise our Lord on His missions, though Abraham, Moses, Habakkuk and a few others have tried to reason with Him. Habakkuk, however, finally praised Him.

17 For though the fig tree shall not flourish, neither shall fruit be in the vines, the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no food. The flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls. 18 Yet I will rejoice in Jehovah, I will joy in the God of my salvation. 19 Jehovah, the Lord, is my strength; and he maketh my feet like hinds' feet, and will make me to walk upon my high places. Hab. 3:17-19 (ASV)

The Global Missions team thanks you for your prayers and financial support.

Scott Arnold, Ramona Hennings, Joseph Joseph, Pat Kohler, Don Sanders, and Beverly VanDerZyl

2016 June 2016

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast	2 7:00p Emmaus	3	4
5 9:05a Prayer Room 9:30a Worship Service 10:40a Fellowship Common Grounds Open	6 2:45 to 5:00p Common Grounds Open 6:00p Food Pantry 6:00p Prayer & Coffee 6:30-8p First Monday Music & Prayer	7	8 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:00p Deacons	9	10	11
12 9:05a Prayer Room 9:30a Worship Service 10:40a Fellowship Common Grounds Open 1:30p Bethany Home	13 2:45 to 5:00p Common Grounds Open 6:00p Food Pantry	14	15 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 12:00p Golden Oldies Newsletter Deadline	16	17	18
19 Father's Day 9:05a Prayer Room 9:30a Worship Service 10:40a Fellowship Common Grounds Open	20 2:45p to 5:00p Common Grounds Open 6:00p Food Pantry 6:30p Property Team	21	22 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast	23	24	25
26 9:05a Prayer Room 9:30a Worship Service 10:40a Fellowship Common Grounds Open 4:30p Men of Grace/Men of Valor	27 2:45p to 5:00p Common Grounds Open 6:00p Food Pantry	28	29 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30p Session	30		

Membership to Date

Active	149
Inactive	8
Perm. Inactive	4
Total	161

Clerk's Report

Kristi Moore was removed from the Inactive Out-of-Town rolls and restored to the Active Out-of-Town rolls per Session Action March 20, 2016.

Carolyn Arnold was Installed as a Deacon on May 15, 2016, for a period of 2 years (2016 & 2017).

The EPC Paper on "Value & Respect of Human Life" was Affirmed and Endorsed by Session on March 20, 2016.

The Blood Drive is scheduled on July 6th from 3:00-6:00pm.

The Pill Bottle Fundraiser is still in effect—see article on page 5 for further details.

Summer Worship Schedule begins May 29th – no Chapel or GracePath – Worship at 9:30-10:40am with Fellowship following.

Worship in the Park will be held on August 14th at the Arboretum. Watch for further details.

The regular Session Meeting for June has been changed to June 29th.

Treasurer's Report for March

Beginning Balance, April 1, 2016	\$ 7,911.78
Direct Transactions	.00
Income	11,694.91
Expenses	-13,797.62
Transfers	- 833.33
Ending Balance, April 30, 2016	\$4,975.74

Prepared by

Pat Kohler, Clerk of Session

Pill Bottle Fundraiser for Operation Christmas Child

An abundance of empty pill bottles has been received and at this time we do not need more empty pill bottles. What we need now are pill bottles FILLED with pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and bills of any denomination.

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. The money to ship these shoe boxes comes from Missional Outreach, so whatever is collected in the PILL BOTTLES for shipping the shoe boxes will leave funds the Missional Outreach Ministry Team can use elsewhere.

The EMPTY pill bottles are in a basket on the shelf with a sign in the Connect Way. Take an empty pill bottle– fill it and return it to the basket marked FILLED pill bottles.

Three filled pill bottles have been received in the last two weeks; this is a good start. Please consider taking an empty pill bottle to fill. I thank all of you who participated in the PILL BOTTLE PROJECT last year, and hope you will continue filling the empty pill bottles.

Let's make the PILL BOTTLE PROJECT bigger than last year to collect even more money for shipping the shoe boxes.

Pat Kohler

Missional Outreach Ministry Team

BIRTHDAYS

2 Michael Chase Barsema
 3 Al Hakanson
 11 Howard Higley
 14 Kim Bell
 16 Roger VanDerZyl
 17 Dawn Buol
 17 Pete Jenner
 19 Dan Baker
 23 Marilyn Learn
 25 Tony Trenkamp
 28 Rachel Schwarzmenn
 29 Ben Jensen



ANNIVERSARIES

7 Erin & Mike Barsema
 7 Diane & George McIlrath
 11 Mike & Phyllis Kelley
 13 Joe & Mary Burns
 15 Jerry & Kim Bell
 17 Nicole & Steve Roling
 21 Kent & J'Neane Briden
 23 Ken & Marla Irion

Poem for Thought

Running in Circles

Lord
 Why do I feel so uncertain?
 I am always wondering
 If I've made the right decision
 Or said the right thing
 Or planned the right guest menu
 Or given the right advice.
 I wonder if I've chosen the right dress
 Or the right color of carpeting.
 Often I ponder whether I should have
 Taken on a certain responsibility.
 When I make a phone call
 I sometimes fear I will be misunderstood.
 I wonder if I'm trying to do too much
 Or if I should be doing more.
 Sometimes I worry that I don't pray enough
 Or read Your Word enough
 Or witness enough.
 Lord, I feel so utterly helpless.
 What in the world is wrong with me?
 Why am I always running in circles?

*Troubled child
 Nothing you could do
 Would ever be "enough."
 Just leave yourself alone
 And delight in me.*

-Ruth Harms Calkin

May Crossword Puzzle Solutions

Across

2 Elizabeth

4 Lazarus

7 Joseph

10 Zaccheus

11 Matthew

12 Anna

14 Pilate

17 Zacharias

19 Luke

21 Simon

22 Judas Iscariot

23 Bartimaeus

24 Jesus

Down

1 Mary

3 Zebedee

5 Andrew

6 John the Baptist

8 Satan

9 Caesar Augustus

13 Nicodemus

14 Philip

15 Mark

16 Martha

18 Herod

20 Jairus

What's Brewing at Common Grounds?



• Open Hours

Sundays: 9am-11am
 Mondays: 2:45-5:00pm
 Monday Music Night: first
 Monday of each month

• 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.

At age thirteen, I entered into a long season of rebellion and searching. From 8th grade into early adulthood, I lived a conflicted life of extreme partying, while yet reading everything I could on religion, spirituality, and philosophy. I can now trace the hand of God protecting and wooing me even during my most sin-filled days.

In my ongoing search for meaning and purpose, I moved to Alaska. It was here God hunted me down and drew me to Christ, wooing me through a beautiful, godly woman named Kelly. Kelly was a Christian; she eventually invited me to church, and I experienced a dramatic encounter with the Holy Spirit. I woke up the next morning forever changed; I was an adopted son of God!

Kelly and I were married within six months. Our marriage has been hard and glorious as two sinner/saints seek to be one. Our early years were especially hard as I had 26 years of self- and other destructive patterns that needed and still need healing. God has since blessed us with four amazing sons and daughters.

The most formative seasons of my faith journey have been in times of tragedies. Many years ago, Kelly and I experienced back-to-back significant losses that included three deaths of brothers-in-law, two by suicide and one due to medical reasons; and two miscarriages. All this grief put me into an extended crisis of faith when often I could not even pray, worship, or read the Bible. In my exhaustion, I had no more tears, no more words, and very little faith or hope. I wrestled with God!

The outcome of those trials was that God's character and cross became a sufficient answer to all my still unanswered questions. I no longer read the Bible to discover applicable principles; I read with a deep cry in my heart, "Oh God, just show me who you are and your love for me!" God brought me to humble dependence, increased compassion, a kingdom perspective, and gratefulness for every moment of blessing. My relationship with Kelly was greatly strengthened.

My deepest transformation is still through God's severe mercy of sorrows and struggle. My faith journey has been and always will be cycles of victory and struggle, joy and sorrow, faith and doubt, assurance and shame. The one sustaining, unshakable truth is that every time I stray as a prodigal, Christ hunts me down, and restores my identity as a beloved, royal, delighted-in, Spirit-indwelt son of Father God in Christ!

Pastor Chris

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 (June 5) Shirley VanDuser, Carolyn Arnold

Communion Servers (June 5) Scott & Carolyn Arnold,
Doug & Karen Storlie

	Ushers	Greeters	Prayer Room
June 5	Janet Metelak Mike Boland	Jennie Burns Karen Storlie	Janet Metelak
June 12	Mike Boland Mike Vandenberg	Steve Lemon Sue Lemon	Patti Scheer
June 19	Mike Vandenberg Suz Birch	Beverly VanDerZyl Sandy Tilton	Pauline Brimeyer
June 26	Ben Temple Glenda Temple	Dan Baker Sharon Baker	Lisa Gaylor

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

ChildCare

June 5 Kelly English, Anna English
June 12 Katy Perreard, Madeline Perreard
June 19 Pam DeMeester, Sara Scherf
June 26 Mary Ann Hopkins, Suz Birch

Check Out the Library

The library is open Sun-
days 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 Meeting

Date

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Time

Noon

Venue

GracePoint Church, Fellowship Hall

Speaker

Alzheimer's Association Speaker

- ◆ Sign up in the Connect Way.
- ◆ This is a brown bag lunch. Drinks provided.
- ◆ All church members and friends are invited.



**Wednesday
June 15**

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.



Men of Grace/Men of Valor

Date

June 26, 2016

Time

4:30pm

Venue

GracePoint Church

The men of GracePoint will meet for a Sunday grill-out. Contact Ken Godwin or Doug Storlie if you are able to attend.

Please plan on coming, and bring a friend!

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RIVERS & LAKES PRESBYTERY

Thank You from Presbytery

It is customary in our Rivers & Lakes Presbytery to appoint a Thanks Committee at the start of each meeting. Following in that tradition—thank you to all who spruced up our building and property, set up meeting and dining rooms, prepared paperwork, registered, greeted, donated food, collected money for dinner, organized the kitchen, served our guests, washed dishes, led worship, ran projection and sound, prepared and served communion, preached, prayed, and assisted in any other way to make our guests feel welcome, rested, revived, and loved!

Mary Burns





3100 Windsor Avenue
Dubuque, IA 52001-8154

June 2016
Volume 20, Issue 6
Published Monthly

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Dubuque, Iowa
Permit No. 474

Return Service Requested

GLORIFYING GOD BY

CONNECTING people to God

LOVING God and each other

GROWING in grace and truth

SERVING Dubuque and the world

Save the Date – Save Lives!

Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center Blood Drive



Mississippi Valley
Regional Blood Center

Date

Wednesday, July 6, 2016

Time

3:00-6:00pm

Venue

GracePoint Church