

WORDS OF GRACE

A Publication of GracePoint Church

Crowned with Glory and Honor

"What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor." Psalm 8:4-5

NRSV

It was into a culture immersed in the shaming categories of a legalistic, graceless application of Old Covenant Law, and honor as worth bestowed by the community using standards that excluded the most vulnerable, that Jesus came and scandalously began to shatter these taboos and dividing walls. Much of the New Testament is to rewrite the Greek, Roman, and Jewish honor codes, and to replace them with the new honor codes of God's Kingdom.

Christ's *Sermon on the Mount* is really Christ presenting the new honor codes of the Kingdom. Christ revealed that in the Kingdom of God the honor and shame categories are radically changed: The first become last, the least become great, the servant is the leader, the weak are strong, the poor are rich, children are blessed, women are equals, and outcasts are celebrated.

Because God has wired us to seek honor, you are motivated by what you believe will bring you the least

amount of shame and the most amount of honor. If you are seeking honor and glory from the American society around you, you will most likely spend much of your time pursuing material possessions, physical attractiveness, prestige, and success in your career, because that is what our culture honors.

If instead you are seeking honor and glory from God and for God by pursuing the values and lifestyle God considers honorable, you will live a God-pleasing life of kingdom-demonstrating faith, sin-overcoming hope, and other-serving love.

When you do, you live in the honor granted to you by the one whose court of opinion matters most, the Almighty Triune God of all grace!

Christ purposely sought out those who were being

shamed or dishonored in their community, in a society where honor was the supreme value, to give them honor in God's Kingdom. Thus, if we want to participate in Christ's ministry, we must do the same.

Healthy living in Christ comes not from living in the pride of seeking honor and glory from the world, nor from living in the shame of feeling unworthy of honor and glory. Rather, in humility, we are to seek our honor and glory in bringing honor and glory to God. When we do, God turns around and bestows unimaginable honor and glory upon us, now and forever, as His royal family!

Pastor Chris



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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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GracePoint Elders

through January 2018

Equipping

Doug Mulder

Missional Outreach

Doug Storlie

Fellowship

Robin Wlochall

Prayer

Pam Hillary

Stewardship

Bob De Meester

Dan Baker

Worship

Beverly VanDerZyl

GracePoint Deacons

through January 2018

Lisa Gaylor
Shirley VanDuser
Janet Metelak
Barb Berg
Suz Birch
Carolyn Arnold
Pauline Brimeyer
Nicole Roling

Deacon Moderator

Shirley VanDuser

Praying the Holy Name of Jesus

Perhaps the most shattering consequence of Jesus' real presence, which is brought about by invoking his name, is that we become unable to lie to ourselves any more. He is light, and wherever he inserts his lordship there is now an absolute necessity of honesty and a zero tolerance for any form of self-deception, self-congratulation, or self-gratification, even those forms that felt necessary, natural, and almost innocent before. He is gentle, but he is light, and he simply does not and will not coexist with any darkness at all; either he casts it out, or it keeps him out.

This is the negative dimension of the fact that he is light. He subtracts our falsehoods. But he also adds his truth. The positive dimension is essentially a clarification of vision, of perspective, of the "big picture." He does not (usually) give specific directions or instant solutions, but he always gives a clarification of our vision. (This usually happens gradually.)

His presence manifests itself, not in fire or wind or thunder, but in a still, small voice. Only in this quietness does he give us the certainty of his presence. We usually cannot hear this because we are making so much inner noise, especially when we are agitated. But this is when he wants most to come, for he goes where the need is.

And what happens when we invoke him during our agitation? He answers! But not by magic or spectacle. Nothing spectacular happens when I invoke the Holy Name at times when I am reacting to my problems by the "fight-or-flight response" that is so natural to our animal nature (that is, either by the "fight" of inner rage and resentment or by the "flight" of self-pity and fantasizing). At such times, when I pray his name, I do not suddenly feel holy or happy, but I do suddenly feel . . . well, "mature" is the only word that comes to mind. The word from the Word is often something like "Grow up!" I suddenly see that far more *important* things are at stake than my feelings, when I let his great wave come in and wash my little garbage away. What had looked big on my beach looks tiny in his waves.

We do not always get specific answers, even when we invoke his name; but we always get the Answerer.

Peter Kreeft

Peter Kreeft is a professor of philosophy at Boston College.

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Doctorate Presentation

The purpose of my doctorate is to design an intensive spiritual formation group and retreat. It will be designed to foster joy-giving, life-changing, who-you-are-in-Christ strengthening encounters with the Trinity. These intimate encounters will exchange any shame-based thinking, feeling, or relational responses with living more out of one's identity as a beloved, adopted son or daughter of God. These grace encounters will come through the formation practices of contemplative prayer, Scripture meditation, and spiritual friendships.

The success of my *entire* doctorate work will depend on adequate participation of GracePoint's people and friends from outside GracePoint in this small group. I am going to need at least 14 people (age 17 or older) to commit to participating in a small group, which will meet 2 hours a week for 10 consecutive weeks, probably Tuesday nights March 21—May 23, at a location to be determined, and then a one-day (possibly overnight) retreat probably the weekend of May 26.

The commitment will be to participate in every session, and will also include you taking 10-20 minutes a day in contemplative practices, meeting with me for spiritual direction at least three times, meeting with a same-gender spiritual friend from the small group at least 5 times, engaging in before and after assessments, and keeping a journal, which will be the quantitative and qualitative data of my thesis.

Please be in prayer now over whether our Lord will direct you to commit to this project. I suspect for all of us this commitment will require saying "no" to other things for 10 weeks. I will hold a gathering at GracePoint right after worship on **February 19 from 11:45-12:15** to explain the purpose and vision of my doctorate thesis, and to explain exactly what participation in this small group will be like, so all can fully know what they are being asked to consider. I will then be asking for solid commitments by Wednesday, February 22. *Thank you!*

As much as any transformation can be guaranteed (as such is the work of the Holy Spirit), I can promise with confidence in *God's* faithfulness that those who participate in this small group will experience a milestone in your faith journey of healing, joy, freedom, intimacy with the Trinity, the Spirit's power to be the best possible *you* in Christ, and the fostering of life-giving soul care relationships.

Thank you all for all your prayers and support in this long, hard doctorate journey thus far, and *thank you* for prayerfully seeking the Lord regarding involvement in this small group.

Pastor Christopher English

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2017 pictorial directory a possibility by sitting for a portrait or submitting a photo. Thank you also to all those who volunteered as table hosts in the weeks leading up to the photography days, and during the photography days. It is good to come together as a family and work to ensure the success of a project. To all those who desired to participate by sitting for a portrait but could not due to scheduling conflicts or prior travelling plans, thank you so much for your openness and willingness to actively participate in this project. Lastly, to those who did not wish to participate in this project for whatever reason, we are sorry that it was not in line with your desire to participate, and hope that you will support other GracePoint projects in the future. Thank you for being part of our GracePoint family!

Special Memorial Service

Judy Adelman's family invites you to take part in a special memorial service on Saturday, February 11, 2017, at 1:30pm at the Savanna Bible Church, in Savanna, IL, Judy's home church. This will be an opportunity for you to share with others your favorite Bible precepts, joyful reminiscences, stories, and unique memories of how Judy touched your life. There will be several ways to participate and celebrate Judy's life, which later can be presented to the family for future cherished reflections.

First, those who are comfortable standing at the podium and addressing the gathered saints with your written thoughts of Judy will be encouraged to do so. Brief poetry, music, and/or personal journal reflections are certainly welcomed.

Second, those who want to relate memories of Judy, but might be reluctant to speak in front of a group are encouraged to commit your comments to paper and seal them in an envelope. A basket will be provided for collecting these personal "notes" about Judy that will be forwarded to the family.

Third, those unable to attend because of prior commitments, travel restrictions, or health concerns can send a personal e-mail to the Savanna Bible Church, typing the phrase "Judy's tribute" in the subject line, and expressing how much knowing Judy has meant to you. These posts will then be presented to the family. The church's e-mail address is **savannabible10@gmail.com**

We encourage those who will be traveling to attend the service to plan at least an hour's driving time from Dubuque to Savanna. You can download detailed road maps from Google Maps or Map Quest that will give you directions to help you reach your destination. The church address:

Savanna Bible Church

1825 Michigan Avenue

Savanna, IL 61074

Judy was never concerned about being in the limelight, but she indeed touched the lives of many people. We truly hope this affectionate gathering in her memory and honor will not only be a celebration of her life, but will become an enduring and uplifting testimony of how people saw Jesus Christ reflected in Judy's personality and character.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please call me at **563-556-7641**, or e-mail me at **jjadelmann@yahoo.com**. Praise the Lord! *John Adelman*

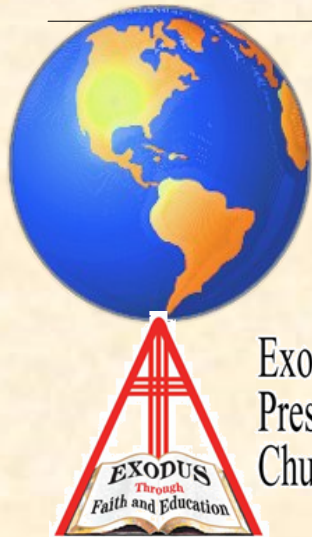


Blood Drive Results

The results from the blood drive hosted on January 18 are as follows.

- 16 people showed up willing to support this mission by donating blood.
 - Only 11 were able to donate.
 - This equals 44 people served.

Thank you to all who support our mission to serve Dubuque by donating blood and by helping in other ways in the days leading up to and during the blood drive. *Pam De Meester*



GLOBAL MISSIONS UPDATE

Witnessing Ministries of Christ

An inspiring memorial service for Rev. Philip Anand Prasad was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Fresno, California, on July 2, 2016. Below are Elizabeth's words.

Philip Prasad's life centered around the fact that his people, the Dalits (outcastes) of India, were in deep trouble. From the depths of his soul, he believed that they would find exodus from their oppression if they could know Jesus and learn to walk in His path. Philip was a man who acted decisively on this hope and who was undeterred by setbacks.

Though he is gone from us, all who knew him or knew about him

- gained an in-depth understanding of his people,
- observed his indigenous approach to mission,
- learned the importance for being at the grassroots level as needed, and
- saw how allowing people the freedom to exercise their responsibilities advanced the kingdom of God.

His generosity and patience were enormous and many looking back realize how he lived his faith like few people do.

In his wake lives a new Exodus Presbyterian Church - India with land, infrastructure, and trained indigenous leaders who are building faith in families that have decided to be Christian. They are running schools dedicated to educating their children as high as they can go.

Our action can augment their efforts to grow their ministries and develop the backing they need within India to fully support themselves one day.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth J. Prasad
Administrative Vice President
Witnessing Ministries of Christ

In the absence of a leader like Philip Prasad, how will the mission continue? God is in control, of course. Here is an update.

In December, the Board of Directors of Witnessing Ministries of Christ announced the approval for the ordination of Elizabeth J. Prasad to the unique and specific ministry of Jesus Christ that is Witnessing Ministries of Christ. With the required ordination, 33 years of experience, and deep ties to India, Reverend Elizabeth J. Prasad was chosen to be the next President and Chief Pastor of Witnessing Ministries of Christ. She will continue working, as Philip did, toward the self-sustainability of the ministry in India.

Thank you, GracePoint, for giving to this ministry. Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in India and for Rev. Elizabeth Prasad as she continues in a new leadership role.

Beverly VanDerZyl

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

2017 February 2017

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast	2 6:30p Faith Sharing Group 7:00p Emmaus	3	4
5 8:30a Chapel 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Common Grounds Open 10:05a Prayer Room 10:30a Worship	6 6:00p Food Pantry	7	8 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:00p Deacons	9 6:30p Faith Sharing Group	10	11
12 8:30a Chapel 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Common Grounds Open 10:05a Prayer Room 10:30a Worship 1:30p Bethany Home	13 6:00p Food Pantry 6:30p Property Team	14 5:30p Missional Outreach Team 6:30p Task Force	15 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast Newsletter Deadline	16 6:30p Faith Sharing Group	17	18
19 8:30a Chapel 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Common Grounds Open 10:05a Prayer Room 10:30a Worship 11:45a Pastor's Doctorate Presentation	20 6:00p Food Pantry	21 6:30p Pastoral Care Team	22 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30p Session	23 6:30p Faith Sharing Group	24	25
26 8:30a Chapel 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Common Grounds Open 10:05a Prayer Room 10:30a Worship	27 6:00p Food Pantry	28 6:30p Task Force				

Membership to Date

Active	120
Inactive	6
Perm. Inactive	11
Total	137

Clerk's Report

The February Session Meeting has been changed to Wednesday, February 22, 2017, and the March Session Meeting has been changed to Wednesday, March 22, 2017.

The officers of GracePoint Church were appointed as of January 18, 2017, at the Session Meeting as Pam Hillary, President of the Corporation; Pat Kohler, Clerk of Session; Paulette Kress, Financial Secretary; Mary Burns, Administrative Bookkeeper; Bob De Meester, Corporate Treasurer. Elders appointed to Elder Ministry Teams: Equipping, Doug Mulder; Fellowship, Robin Wlochall; Missional Outreach, Doug Storlie; Prayer, Pam Hillary; Stewardship - Finance, Bob De Meester; Stewardship - Property, Dan Baker; and Worship, Beverly VanDerZyl. Elders appointed to Ministry Teams: Foundation, Bob De Meester & Doug Storlie; Global Missions, Beverly VanDerZyl; Memorial, Robin Wlochall; Nominating, Doug Mulder & Robin Wlochall; and Pastor Care, Pam Hillary.

Easter Sunrise Service will be held on Sunday, April 16, 2017, at the Grand River Center. Watch the bulletin for further details on time, etc.

Presbytery Meeting will be January 27-28 in Rockford, Illinois. Elder Doug Mulder will be the delegate for GracePoint Church.

Daylight Savings Time begins on March 12.

The Rolls were reviewed at the December 21, 2016, Session Meeting. Elaine Boettner and Raymond Wlochall were placed on the Inactive Membership Rolls for a period of two (2) years (December 21, 2016—December 21, 2018).

At the December 21, 2016, Session Meeting the following were removed from the Inactive Membership Rolls, having been placed on them for a period of two (2) years (November 19, 2014 - November 19, 2016): Ben Jensen, Mike & Phyllis Kelley, and Kirsten Pope.

At the December 21, 2016, Session Meeting the following members were placed on the Permanent Inactive Rolls: Johanna Boettner, Verna Davis, Betty Emerson, Robert Goodman, C. R. (Pete) Jenner, Elaine Scherer, and Dorothy Thomas.

The Pill Bottle Fundraiser is still in progress. Empty pill bottles are in a basket in the Connect Way alongside the basket for filled pill bottles. One FILLED pill bottle was received January 1, 2017, a good start for the year. Keep filling the empty bottles. What is collected helps defray the cost of shipping the Shoe Boxes. THANK YOU ALL WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED.

Clerk's Report prepared by
Pat Kohler, Clerk of Session



I'd like to thank all of
the saints at
GracePoint for your
visits, your cards,
and especially your
prayers for Judy and
me.

Those prayers meant
so much to both of
us
during her illness
and to me on her
death.
They are carrying me
now.

John Adelman

**Treasurer's Report for
December**

Beginning Balance, December 1, 2016	-\$6,438.31
Income	25,248.78
Expenses	15,815.14
Transfers	-833.33
Ending Balance, December 31, 2016	\$2,162.00

BIRTHDAYS

6 Pete Conrad
 8 Natalie Huston
 12 Mike McCarthy
 12 Doug Mulder
 12 Bob Boelk
 14 Mike Stowers
 14 Ray Wlochall
 17 Karin Loukinen
 17 Alexandra Wiest
 19 Brenda Bloesch
 22 Alan Crandall
 22 Betty Pothoff
 23 Paul Both
 23 Andy Unrau
 25 Bob Burns
 25 Kevin Hirschey



ANNIVERSARIES

1 Mike & Deb Bolland
 19 Ed & Johanna Boettner
 25 Ernie & Karin Loukinen

Per Member Asking



The Per-Member Asking (initial offering) requested by EPC and Rivers & Lakes Presbytery has been raised back up to \$40 per active member. This is comprised of \$23 to our denomination and \$17 to our Presbytery, and is the primary means of funding the EPC and RLP administration budgets. This includes administrative costs for the offices, travel expenses for the Stated Clerks to the various required meetings, church planting and revitalization efforts, student and college ministries, women's ministries, and World Outreach missionaries across the globe. Your donations through the use of the Initial Offering envelopes help defray the amount that GracePoint needs to take from our annual budget. Thank you for your support in whatever amount you are able to donate.

What's Brewing at Common Grounds?



• Open Hours

Sundays: 10am-12pm

Look out for *Spirited Exchanges*. Open conversations for young adults.

• Classes

Thursdays: 6:30-8:30pm
 Crossroads Faith Sharing Group
 Hosted by Patti Scheer & Sue Lemon.

• Live Video Streaming

Sundays: 10:30am
 Watch Worship on TV.

Stories OF Grace

Following the Golden Thread of Hope

Today's test is tomorrow's testimony.

Got a story to share?

Glorify God.
Share your testimony.
Encourage.
Inspire hope.

My name is Charlene Arnesdorf (some remember me as Charlene Frey), and I want to take this time to express my gratitude for all you have done for me and my family.

Early on when GracePoint was known as Third Pres., people came to my door and said, "We have a bus, and we can pick up and return your children on Sunday morning for church." Of course, me being the worldly person I was then, I immediately saw this as a way to recover from a hangover. With the kids gone, I could easily sleep till noon. So, that's what happened for quite a while. And the church even sent my kids to summer camp each year.

Couldn't get any better than that, right? Wrong! It did get better than that. One day in April 1986, Gerry Vandenberg and I were out to lunch, and my world changed. I accepted Christ. And though I have not always done things in a godly way, the church has never judged me.

My children grew up and started families of their own. My daughter and her family still go to camps as often as they can.

My life has had many ups and downs, but through the help and prayers of people in this church and others, I do not feel helpless anymore. I know that God has a plan for my life. Things don't always look positive and my health is not always the best, but I know God is leading me.

This church has had an enormous impact on me and my children. Our lives and our understanding of the Lord would not be the same today if you were not here, and I realize I have never properly thanked all who had a hand in that. Thank you to everyone who had a part in my life and the lives of my children. I will always be grateful and thankful.

I also want to thank you for the Food Pantry. It has been a blessing to me. The people who work in the pantry are wonderful people, and I am very grateful to them. I am thankful that I am allowed to use the pantry.

In closing, I thank you all very much, and may God bless each of you.

Love, Charlene

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**

Communion Preparers (February 5) Janet Metelak
Lisa Gaylor

Communion Servers (February 5) Ray & Robin Wlochall
Steve & Sue Lemon

	Ushers	Greeters	Prayer Room
February 5	Steve Lemon Isaiah Roling	Bob De Meester Pam De Meester	Beverly VanDerZyl
February 12	Ed Boettner Doug Mulder	Steve Lemon Sue Lemon	Pauline Brimeyer
February 19	LeRoy Berg Barb Berg	Dave Gaylor Lisa Gaylor	Lisa Gaylor
February 26	Mike Vandenberg Mike Boland	Doug Storlie Karen Storlie	Pam Hillary

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

ChildCare

February 5	Suz Birch, J'Neane Briden
February 12	Anna English, Sara Scherf
February 19	Kelly English, Martha Intveld
February 26	Marilyn Learn, Janet Metelak

Check Out the Library

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

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.



Smoke Detectors

GracePoint is dedicated to the safety of its members while using the church building. For that reason, the Property Team sought to install smoke detectors around the building. As a result, two members of the Dubuque Fire Department installed eight (8) smoke detectors in the narthex, main hallway, stairwell, and lower level, including the stairway. The two firemen knew what the restrictions were and where to place the smoke alarms. These alarms are good for ten years and have a silencer and test button on them. They are to be discarded after ten years. The alarms are available for residential use, but the fire department included GracePoint in their program. The smoke alarms were provided free to our church. We thank the Fire Department for their donation and the installation of the alarms, which should provide increased safety and protection for our church.

For the Property Team,

Thank You!

Thank you from the 31 Audubon Elementary School students who received winter boots as a result of your generosity in donating money toward this cause.

The LORD God called to man and asked him: Where are you?

Genesis 3:9



**Wednesday
February 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.





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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

Pastor's Doctorate Presentation

Sunday, February 19

Immediately following Worship.

Please join Pastor Chris after worship for a 30-minute presentation of his progress on his doctorate, and how GracePoint church members can help to make this study a success by participating in the last phase of his studies.

Thank you!