

Message from Pastor Dean

Life's Healing Choices Campaign

This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life.

Deut 30:19-20 NIV

We will be studying *Life's Healing Choices* together for eight weeks, beginning October 18th. I will introduce the theme each Sunday during worship, and then you will have the opportunity to dig deeper each week, by reading the book, working through the study guide, and discussing the content in a small group setting.

Life's Healing Choices offers freedom from our hurts, hang-ups and habits through eight healing choices that promise true happiness and life transformation. Using the Beatitudes of Jesus as a foundation, Rick Warren and John Baker developed the eight choices featured in this program.

Through making each of these choices, you too will find God's pathway to wholeness, growth, spiritual maturity, happiness, and healing. You'll find real *answers*, real *hope*, and a real *future*—one healing choice at a time.

In addition to the regular small groups, pastor and a select group of volunteers will be launching a new ministry, called Celebrate Recovery, to coincide with this campaign. Celebrate Recovery is a ministry based upon the same teachings as in our campaign, designed to help individuals learn to make healthier choices than the ones we have made. These Choices have led to our hurts, habits, and hang-ups, we are currently wrestling with.

All the choices we make in life have a "payoff". What I mean is, we choose to respond to the situations of life in a particular way, in an effort to "cope" with them. The words of Moses remind us that these choices can be for our own good, or they can also blow up in our face. They can hurt or they can heal. We've all been hurt by other people, we've hurt ourselves, and we've hurt others. And, as a result, every single one of us ends up with some sort of *hurt*, *hang-up* or *habit*. Join us for *Life's Healing Choices*, as we learn God's plan for healthier relationships.

Cluster Conference Here

Grace U.M.C. is hosting the Cluster Charge Conference this year. The Cluster Conference is Monday, October 12 at 7:00 p.m. District Superintendent Brian Milford will lead the conference. The churches represented at this conference along with Grace UMC are Pacific Junction, Hillsdale, Silver City, Emerson, and Wesley Chapel. Let's all join in making everyone feel welcome.

Prayer & Praise Sisters

You are invited to join the Prayer & Praise Sisters for prayer, praise, and sharing in fellowship each Wednesday morning. They meet at 8:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

If you have questions call Louise Weber.

MOPS Events

Come to these upcoming MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) events:
... Regular meeting Wednesday, October 14 at 6:30 p.m. at Grace UMC.

... October 15 Pregnancy & Infant Loss Remembrance Ceremony at Grace UMC at 6:45 p.m. in memory of pregnancy and infants lost. Public is welcome to attend.

... October 17 tentative date for MOPS fall party at Garden Treasures at 4:00 p.m.

... October 21 Maid Rite Fundraiser in Fellowship Hall from 5-7 p.m.

... November 11 regular MOPS meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

**MOPS are collecting items each month for the Mills County Storehouse. October is soap, body wash, shampoo, etc. November is household cleaning products.

For more information about MOPS check out their website www.freewebs.com/mopsofgrace. or contact Amber Dyer or Monica Mayberry.

Reaching Men through Discipleship & Mentoring

God to Man, Man to Man, Man to Boy

The 12th Annual Four Conference United Methodist Men's Retreat is Saturday, October 10, 2009 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Papillion, NE. Featured speaker is Coach, Ron Brown. The cost is \$20 including lunch. Pastor Dean is planning to go. If you would like to attend or want more details please contact him.

Display of Deployed Military

The church has a table in the overflow room for pictures of service men and women who are now deployed in the Iraq and Afghanistan areas. Family members are asked to provide a 5x7 picture of their loved one serving in the military. Rev. McPherson would also like a digital picture if possible. Bring the picture to the church office on Sunday morning or weekdays between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

World Communion Sunday Offering –October 4

Impacting a life, church, community and nation at one time is no easy task. However, the World Communion Sunday offering does that by nurturing students to lead today and in the future.

World Communion Sunday gives Christians a time to share in the sacrament and then to serve God through scholarships for U.S. (racial-and ethnic-minority) and international students. These scholarships enable people from around the world to serve and lead in their home churches and communities by making higher education a reality.

We can make a difference for the future by preparing and nurturing the students of today. Special offering envelopes will be in the bulletins on this Sunday.

2009 Ingathering Kits — This year is the 30th Anniversary of the Iowa Conference Thanksgiving Ingathering. Each year our Mission Committee selects kits to take to Ingathering and invites the congregation to donate items or cash towards those kits. The kit chosen for October is the sewing kit.

Sewing Kits foster independence rather dependence. Cottage industries often grow out of sewing classes where these kits are used to practice skills. Kit items needed are: (kit value is \$18.00)

3 yards cotton or cotton-blend fabric (one piece)

5-8 matching flat buttons

1 sewing scissors

1 package hand sewing needles

1 new spool matching thread

Look for Blanket Man in Worship – October 11, 18 & 25

Join United Methodist Women

October 1 – The U.M.W. unit meeting is at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Donna Bishop will provide the worship center and devotion. The program will be presented by Shepherdess Patti Ford. Hostesses are Verna Kelley, Jean Strom, and Virginia Vohs.

October 12 – Faith Circle will meet in the Church Lounge at 7:30 p.m. Anita Coatney will provide the program and devotion. Mary Ann McCreedy is the hostess.

October 19 – Hope Circle will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Church Lounge. Lynnette Dunn will present the devotion and Phyllis Schwaninger will provide the program. Hostess is Michelle Woodrum.

November 5 – The U.M.W. unit meeting is at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Nancy Downing will provide the worship center, devotion and program. Hostesses are unknown at this time.

November 9 – Faith Circle will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Church Lounge. Mary Ann Gregory will provide the devotion and program. Anita Coatney is the hostess.

November 16 – Hope Circle will meet in the Church Lounge at 7:30 p.m. Kathy Bird will present the devotion and Michelle Woodrum will provide the program. Hostess is Judy Lehman.

It's Time to Think – Fall Bazaar!

Volunteers will be needed to assist in making mincemeat and chicken & noodles. (Watch for dates in Sunday bulletin or Opinion Tribune Newspaper). The day of the Bazaar we will need people to work at the various booths and cashier tables.

In addition to volunteering to assist with the above, if you are able to contribute baked goods, themed gift baskets, crafts, or gift items, it would be most appreciated.

To volunteer, or for more information contact Sunny Seitz.

Proceeds from the bazaar are for mission projects to help children, youth, women and older adults.

Come to the Fall Bazaar!

Saturday, November 21 at 8:30 a.m.

Silent Auction for Theme Baskets

Homemade Mincemeat – Homemade Chicken & Noodles

Cookie Walk & Bake Sale – Cookbooks, Napkins Crafts

Tea Room with Free Refreshments

Everyone Come!!!

After School Groups to begin!

Come join us after school each Wednesday in Fellowship Hall beginning October 7th. We will unwind, enjoy a healthy snack, and make some music with Ms. Monica (3rd-6th graders) or do some awesome activities with Ms. Patti (ages 4-2nd graders) or God's Kids with Ms. Tammie! Our after school groups are open to any child from age 4-6th grade. If you wish for your child to participate, please email Patti at patti.graceumc@juno.com so that a shuttle bus roster can be completed. This will make it possible for the kids to walk together from West Elementary School.

Support our After School Groups

Each Wednesday GUMC hosts after school groups for 30-35 elementary students. We are looking for *healthy* snacks to provide for them when they arrive. If you would like to support this ministry, you may drop items off in the bin in the kitchen marked "After School". Here is a list of items that are perfect for kids (please no peanuts or peanut butter):

Granola Bars (no nuts)	Popcorn
100% Juice Boxes	Pudding
Cheese and Cracker packets	Pretzels
Graham Crackers	String Cheese
Individual Caramel dipping sauces	Individual Ranch dressing sauces
Fruit cups, Applesauce cups, Yogurt cups	
Grapes, Bananas, Apples, Oranges (please drop off on Wednesday only)	

Thank you for supporting our children's ministries!

Winter Warm-Up

It's time to clean out the winter closet! In observance of Children's Sabbath, which is a weekend dedicated to the awareness of the plights of children, we will be collecting winter outer wear for persons infant-adult. Coats, hats, gloves, and blankets, new or gently used, may be dropped off at the church beginning September 19th. Distribution will be October 10th from 12 p.m.-5 p.m. at the church to anyone in the community in need of these items. Let's give a hand up to those in need this winter.

Stone Soup

The story of Stone Soup will be read in Sunday School on October 18th. The dinner will take place October 25th after 2nd service. The congregation is invited to bring a can or bag of vegetables (no lima beans due to allergies) to add to the soup. Please drop off your vegetables prior to the worship service so the soup will have time to cook.

All freewill offering donations will go toward the principle of the air-conditioning loan. We hope you will join us for a church family dinner of Stone Soup.

Go Green!

If you would like to receive Sunday school information/reminders via email rather than postcards please email Patti at patti.graceumc@juno.com with "SS Parent" in the subject box. Help us to save time and money!

Recycle!

The youth are still collecting used ink cartridges. There is a collection box near Fellowship Hall. Our youth receive up to \$4 per cartridge. Please no Epson cartridges.

Confirmation Class Begins

All 6th, 7th & 8th grade students are invited to attend Confirmation Class on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. the Confirmation program at Grace UMC is a two-year program. The curriculum for 2009-2010 is Faith Inkubators "Living Faith" Yearbook & Home Journal. The book cost is \$22.00. Parental assistance & snacks are being scheduled.

October & November Committee Meetings

Oct. 8	Finance	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 21	Nurture & Education	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 4	Trustees	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 11	Church Council	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 18	S. S. Teachers	6:00 p.m.
Nov. 18	Nurture & Education	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 18	Missions	6:30 p.m.

Harvest Celebration Sunday

Sunday, November 22

Potluck Dinner following the 10:30 a.m. worship service

**Meat, Drinks & Tableware provided!
Please bring a salad and/or dessert to share.**

Everyone Come!!

Community Thanksgiving Worship Service

The Mills County Ministerial Assoc. is hosting a Community Thanksgiving Worship Service Tuesday, November 24 at Calvary Baptist Church, 56456 221st Street. Father Don Bruck from Holy Rosary Church will deliver the message.

Invite family and friends to attend worship with you.

Poinsettias for Our Sanctuary

Grace UMC is inviting the congregation to remember family and friends this Advent season. This can be done through the purchase of a poinsettia (cost \$10.00) for use in the sanctuary throughout Advent or you may designate your gift to the Building Fund.

Your gift or plant may be designated in memory or in honor of loved ones. The recognition of the gifts and of the poinsettias will be printed in the Sunday bulletin on December 6. Plants may be taken home after the Christmas Eve worship services.

Please fill out the order form and place it accompanied by your check in the offering plate, or bring it, or mail it to the church office (Grace UMC, P.O. Box 450, Glenwood, IA 51534). **We must have your order by November 29.**

We purchase the poinsettias from Lehman's Greenhouse and Kathy Dix decorates the pots with bows and ribbons.

Poinsettia Order or Advent Gift

Please use my gift to purchase _____ poinsettia(s).

(Each poinsettia costs \$10.00)

Please use my gift of \$_____ towards the Building Fund.

My gift is given ...

In Memory of _____

In Memory of _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In Honor of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

“Empowered by God — Responding by Grace”

“ . . . just as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us — see that you also excel in this grace of giving” (2 Cor. 8:7).

We are entering into our annual stewardship emphasis entitled, “Empowered by God — Responding by Grace.” During this time, we will consider how God has empowered us and how our response, by grace through faith, can be used by God, especially in the ministry here at Grace United Methodist Church.

Just what does it mean to be empowered by God? The Lord Jesus said that His disciples would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 1:8). That not only happened as He said it would, but we, too, receive God’s power by His grace through our faith in Christ as the Holy Spirit takes up residence in us. The words of a contemporary anthem by David Clydesdale and Claire Cloninger express this truth clearly: “Empower me! Like a rushing river flowing to the sea, Lord, send Your Holy Spirit flowing now thru me. ‘Til I’m living as Your child, victorious and free. Send the power of Your love; empower me!” (Copyright © 1984 John T. Benson Publishing Co./ASCAP. All rights reserved.)

As we experience God’s power through faith in Christ, our hearts respond. Our response begins with the realization that God owns everything. As Edwin Frizen stated, “. . . Scripture is full of evidence that all that we have comes from God.” God is our Source. God is the Creator and Sustainer of life. God is the Provider of all that we have, whether it be life itself, the air we breathe, water which sustains us, or financial resources through which we obtain the necessities of life. On a daily basis, God demonstrates again and again His abundant power as He “richly provides us with everything” (1 Tim. 6:17).

And what should be our response to God’s provision for us? According to 2 Corinthians 8:7, we respond by “faith,” implicitly trusting God to provide all that we need. We respond by “speech,” sharing the good news of the Gospel with others. We respond by “knowledge” through the study of God’s Word. We respond in “complete earnestness,” that is, through a demonstration of the sincerity of our love for the Lord. And we respond by excelling in the “grace of giving.”

As an example of what it means to give by grace, the Apostle Paul points to the Christians at Macedonia. These were poor people — dirt poor, poor as the proverbial church mice — who were commended by Paul for giving beyond their ability to give. How could they do that? The answer is found in 2 Corinthians 8:5 — “. . . they gave themselves first to the Lord.” Giving does not begin with the movement of the hand to the wallet, purse or pocketbook. Giving begins in the heart.

In fact, this principle goes back to God’s instruction to Moses in Exodus 25:2, “You are to receive the offering for me from each man whose heart prompts him to give.” This principle is still in operation today. As we give our time, talents and treasure to the Lord, we do so by God’s grace because we have already given our hearts to Him.

“Empowered by God — Responding by Grace.” That was true of the Macedonian Christians. May it also be true of us here at Grace United Methodist Church.