

WORDS OF GRACE

A Publication of GracePoint Church

Faith: The Supremacy of God's Son

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. Hebrews 1:1-3

God has spoken through angels and prophets, through dreams and visions, and through Word and Creation. But in these “*Last Days*,”—the age between the First and Second Coming of Christ—God speaks to us through His beloved and only begotten Son, King Jesus.

God has revealed Himself, and His plans for humanity and Creation, through progressive revelation throughout all history, culminating and climaxing in the Incarnation of Jesus the Messiah. The preeminent, supreme, superior revelation of God to humanity came directly by the Word of God incarnate—made human—the Living Word Jesus, “*full of grace and truth*.”

Every person lives in faith. By faith, we let doctors do surgery on us while we are unconscious. By faith, we sit on chairs trusting they will hold us. By faith, we eat food made by who knows who or in what manner. Faith is simply trust. Therefore, the power of our faith is completely dependent on who or what we are trusting. Thus, the ultimate faith is in our Triune

God, who alone is all trustworthy! As N.T. Wright, declares, “*We don't need great faith. We need faith in a great God!*”

We do not have faith in our faith. As Spurgeon warns, “*Don't make a Christ out of your faith!*” Why can you have unshakable faith? Because your faith is in the unshakeable, supreme, all-mighty Christ. Christ is the supreme object of our faith, because Jesus is the all-powerful Creator and Sovereign King of kings! Christ is the unshakable source of our faith, because not only did Jesus create all things, but our passage reveals that Christ “*upholds the universe by the word of his power*.”

The phrase reveals that Christ is intimately involved in *every* aspect of the created order. Christ is involved in the life of *every* person, indeed in *everything* that has life and existence. Christ is moving *all* things, in love, toward the grand fulfillment of a Divine Plan. If Jesus can hold the entire vast universe together by the power of His Word, Christ can hold together your life, and keep you secure until you reach God's eternal New Earth Kingdom!

Pastor Chris


GracePoint

3100 Windsor Avenue
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583-3929
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Office Hours

Tues-Wed, 9:30-11:30am
Thurs-Fri, 9:30am-1:30pm
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November 2017
Published Monthly

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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Clerk of Session Pat Kohler
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Editor Karen Storlie
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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
Care
Group Deacon

- 1 Lisa Gaylor
- 2 Pauline Brimeyer
- 3 Shirley VanDuser
- 4 Janet Metelak
- 5 Barb Berg
- 6 Suz Birch
- 7 Nicole Roling*
- 8 Carolyn Arnold

Deacon Moderator
Shirley VanDuser

*Nicole has resigned due to increased family responsibilities. Her caregroup has been distributed to other current Deacons.

Exchanging Shame for Glory

Intensive Spiritual Formation Small Group

Come discover freedom and joy in Christ!

This is an invitation to participate in an intensive spiritual formation small group, designed to foster deep transformation in your soul by exchanging shame for a strengthened identity in Christ. If GracePoint truly desires to embrace a *Missional Soul Care Community* model, eventual participation for all in one of these groups will be essential, as shame is the strongest barrier in every soul to close relationships with God and others.

This group is open to any Christian in the tri-state area ages 18 and above. This soul care group is the fruit of 6 years of doctorate study, and fostered major healing and freedom in Christ for the participants of the first group. This will be a weekly small group that meets for ten, 2-hour sessions, and will also require 2 hours a week of activity outside of the group time.

Every person has deeply imbedded shame issues! Shame is the inner voice of *ever* feeling inadequate, unable, not good enough in any area, or unworthy. Shame is the root of why you either pull away from close relating or respond defensively or critically to another. Shame is the thief of why you do not always feel deep joy. Shame is the barrier to releasing your full giftedness, talents, and creativity. Shame is the fear that while God may forgive and love you,

God couldn't possibly delight in you.

WHEN: There are two possibilities in 2018. Which dates are selected will depend on which of these two options works for at least 10 people, the minimum required to run this group.

January 9-March 13, every Tuesday for ten weeks, from 6:30-8:30pm.

April 3-March 29, every Tuesday for nine weeks, from 6:30-8:30pm.

Please fervently pray to discern if Christ is leading you to participate in this transformative experience, and then please let me know by December 15.

Thank you!

Pastor Christopher English

GracePath Module 2 ~ Six Weeks December 3-January 21

Soul-care relationship building will continue as part of both classes.

Unashamed

Teacher: Pastor Chris English

This small group will include video teaching by Christine Caine, founder of A21, a ministry overcoming human trafficking. In her passionate and candid style, Caine leads you into God's Word where you will see for yourself how to believe that God is bigger than your mistakes, your inadequacies, your past, and your limitations. God is not only more powerful than anything you have ever done but also stronger than anything ever done to you. You can deal with your past today, so that you can move on to see what God has in store for you tomorrow, a powerful purpose and destiny he wants you to fulfill.

Offering hope to those struggling under the burden of shame, this class will shine the life-giving light of the gospel on the things that leave us feeling worthless and rejected, directing our attention to the God who promises to forgive and restore us. In this study of Unashamed, Pastor Chris will help participants find freedom from believing they are fundamentally flawed and unworthy of acceptance and prepare them to step into their future, confident, dearly loved, created for a divine purpose. This class will help you to live unashamed!

Bonhoeffer

Teacher: Doug Mulder

In this four-session video-based small group Bible study, bestselling author Eric Metaxas helps you discover the major themes of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's writing and speaking. You will learn how he not only helped transform an entire faith community in Germany during World War II, but how he continues to impact the Christian faith of people throughout the world today.

This series is a very good introduction to Dietrich Bonhoeffer, his life and his beliefs. He was a man way ahead of his times and truly had a very personal relationship with God and understanding of his relationship with God. He lived his life for God. Participants doing this study will find it extremely helpful in understanding and deepening one's individual walk with Christ.

In the midst of Nazi Germany, Bonhoeffer gave witness to the Gospel, something desperately needed today. This class should facilitate discussion and inspire participants to think about what it means to be a Christian in 21st century America.

Faith Promise Sunday, November 19

Our Fall Campaign will again use Faith Promise as the way to set goals for 2018 finances at GracePoint.

Faith Promise is a stewardship vow that is set between you and God, not the church. It is an exercise in faith over the stewardship of your finances. This goal is set for one year. You are to do your best to give this amount of money. It is your response to His request.

You are encouraged to pray, to work, and to do your best to meet this vow. Look for ways in which God provides for you in ways never expected. Remember, this is a goal set between you and God.

As we remember how God has worked, it is exciting to know we have the great privilege of joining in the work God is doing. As we act and give, we are effectively "remembering forward."

Our memories of God moving and working in our lives fuel us to follow His great plans to where He is taking us.

Steps to making a Faith Promise:

1. Seek the Lord through prayer for the specific amount He wants to make available through you for GracePoint in the coming year.
2. Ask the Lord to help you walk by faith and grow into a faithful steward based on his provision.
3. Trust God's counsel about the amount that you are to give. He will give you His zeal with His wisdom.

The week of November 5th, members will be receiving a letter with more detail.

Trusting God's direction,

Your Finance Team

Bob DeMeester, Elder Suz Birch

Mary Burns Paulette Kress

Janet Metelak Don Sanders

GLOBAL MISSIONS UPDATE

Paul Both has used technology to keep in touch with the SSEM Board members as he has ministered in South Sudan and Ethiopia the past four months. Below are some images and reports from Paul.

Here are youth from the Lare Presbytery who came to the two-day Nuer Youth Conference in Gambella. Nuer youth from South Sudan and Gambella attended.



Paul was able to hold a leadership and stewardship training at the Kuole One refugee camp. Here are refugees worshipping.



Please continue to pray for Paul and the continued ministry of SSEM. The fighting between tribes in South Sudan has started again. Floods have created more devastation and famine. Yet, God has made the way clear for Paul and Tim, his protégé, to travel safely and bring the Word to God's people.



2017

November

2017

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 5:30p Bells	3 6	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 6:30p Deacons	9 5:30p Bells	10 6:30p Crossroads at Sanders'	11
12 8:30a Chapel 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Common Grounds Open 10:05a Prayer Room 10:30a Worship 1:30 Bethany Home	13 6:00p Food Pantry 6:30p Property	14 5:30p Missional Outreach	15 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast Noon Golden Oldies Newsletter Deadline 6:30p Session	16 5:30p Bells	17	18
19 8:30a Chapel 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Common Grounds Open 10:05a Prayer Room 10:30a Worship	20 6:00p Food Pantry	21	22 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast No Thanksgiving Eve Service	23 Thanksgiving Office Closed	24 Office Closed	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	29 Give Thanks & Decorate	30		

Clerk's Report

MEMBERSHIP TO DATE

Active	129
Inactive	6
Total	135

The Pill Bottle Fundraiser is still in progress. Please take an empty bottle. Thank you in advance.

CORPORATE TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund:

Balance, July 1, 2017	\$ 81.06
<u>Corrected July Income</u>	16,632.00
Expenses	-11,738.41
Transfers to Funds	<u>-833.33</u>
Ending Balance, July 31	\$4141.32

Balance, August 1, 2017	\$4141.32
August Income	13,440.26
Expenses	-11,261.65
Transfers to Funds	<u>-833.33</u>
Ending Balance, August 31	\$5,486.60

FINANCES Year-to Date through AUGUST

Budget Need (Jan – Aug):	\$132,900
Income Received:	\$124,400

Pat Kohler, Clerk of Session

Give Thanks - Deck the Halls - Eat Pie

November 29, 2017, 6:00pm



We will begin with thanks-giving devotions. There will be no Thanksgiving Eve Service



Pie will be served.



**Wednesday
November 15**

Today's test is
tomorrow's
testimony.

*Got a story to
share?*

Glorify God.

Share a testimony.

Inspire hope.

Submit your story to
the office for an up-
coming newsletter
Story of Grace.

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Mary Trenkamp
- 7 Lois Trausch-Wolfe
- 8 Joe Burns
- 12 Angela Baumann
- 14 Ben Cernek
- 14 Elaine Scherer
- 15 Doug Storlie
- 16 Ann Marie Baumann
- 19 Carolyn Arnold
- 23 Madeline Perreard
- 24 Dan Brimeyer
- 24 George Schwarzmann Jr.
- 25 Betty Carlson
- 29 Ed Boettner



ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Mike McCarthy & Dixie Shaffer
- 19 Don & Wilma Sanders
- 23 Roger & Beverly VanDerZyl
- 28 LeRoy & Barb Berg
- 28 Pam & John Hillary

What's Brewing at Common Grounds?



- **Open Hours**
Sundays: 9am-12pm

Watch for *Spirited Exchanges*, open conversations for young adults.
- **Classes**
Precepts
Thursday evenings at 6:30pm
- **Live Video Streaming**
Sundays 10:30am
Watch Worship on TV.

Dear Friends at GracePoint,

It was 40 years ago this fall that you hired me to be the Choir Director at Third Pres, beginning an almost continuous service of music ministry at Third, and later, GracePoint. In so many ways God has used this church to guide my life. It was at Third Pres that I met my wife, J'Neane, and where I married her 2 and a half years later. Both our children were baptized at Third, and today they are both leading Christian lives, in large part because of the influence Third Pres has had on them. J'Neane and I have both learned how to seek God's will and to do it; how to step out in faith, and to enjoy the friendships we have made at this church. Thank you so much for all of this.

Also, a belated thank you for that wonderful Recognition Event on Feb. 19, for all the notes and letters you gave us, and for the wonderful cherry tree GracePoint gave us to be planted at our new home.

Well, we have been at our new place for a little over two months. That cherry tree is doing well. We have completed the bathroom remodel and the kitchen make-over. We have visited several churches in our area, and have settled into Trinity United Methodist Church in Waverly. J'Neane and I are singing in the choir, and we have started rehearsing for a Christmas Cantata.

God bless all of you at GracePoint.

**Love,
Kent & J'Neane
Briden**

GracePath Module 2 (cont. from page 3)

Bonhoeffer

Teacher: Doug Mulder

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You Are Invited

The small group called CROSSROADS is now gathering the second Friday of each month to share food, faith, and God's Word.

We will begin at 6:30pm. All are welcome!

November 10 Sanders' @ 1816 Churchill St.



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 (November 5) Carolyn Arnold
Shirley VanDuser

Communion Servers (November 5) Doug & Karen Storlie
Ben Temple

	Ushers	Greeters	Prayer Room
Nov 5	Ed Boettner Doug Mulder	Ben & Glenda Temple	Betty Carlson Mary Ann Hopkins
Nov 12	Dwayne Intveld Martha Intveld	Steve & Sue Lemon	Kevin Hirschey
Nov 19	Janet Metelak Ed Boettner	Dave & Lisa Gaylor	Doug Storlie
Nov 26	Ray & Robin Wlochall	Rebekah Godwin Sara Scherf	Janet Metelak

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

ChildCare

Nov 5 - Sue Lemon, Judy Godwin

Nov 12 -Carolyn Arnold, Anna English

Nov 19- Glenda Temple, Martha Intveld

Nov 26– Kelly English, Janet Metelak

Check Out the Library

The library is open Sundays from 9:00am—noon. Videos and books are available for checkout.

Check out a book or video for your reading or viewing enjoyment.

Donations of new books or videos are always welcome. Questions?

Contact Bob Boelk, 557-9166.



KFXB-TV's 9th Annual Free Christian Conference

Walking with Purpose

Saturday, November 4, 2017



Tom Bond



Donette Douglas



Rev. Jeff Pedersen



Rev. Michelle Mihalakis



Rev. Tommy Roberts

Registration - 8AM-8:30AM
Conference - 8:30AM-2:30PM
Best Western Plus -
3100 Dodge St.
Dubuque, IA

Tickets are available by going to www.kfxb.net OR calling KFXB-TV at 563-690-1704, between 9am-4pm. This ticket will get you into the conference and provide you with a **BOX LUNCH**.

RSVP BY 10/30/2017



Join in fellowship with men and women of all ages, and refresh your faith!

Music by: New Faith Ministry in Song



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

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

If baking is not your style, you may also bring a couple of packages of cookies to share.

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

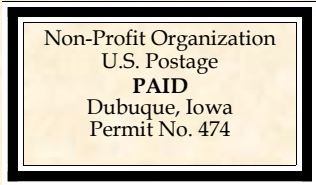
Contact Elder Robin Wlochall or Bob Boelk.





3100 Windsor Avenue
Dubuque, IA 52001-8154

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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

**Change in Sunday Schedule
Starting December 3, 2017**

In order for the Family of God at GracePoint to experience and grow deeper into the Missional Soul Care Relationship ministry, the Session considered recommendations from the Task Force and the Elder Ministry Worship Team.

The recommendations were for one worship time so the entire congregation can worship together. The Sunday schedule needed to include one worship time, a time for fellowship, and an hour for GracePath classes.

With one worship, we will bring a unified voice in hymns, contemporary praise/worship songs, liturgy, prayer, the receiving of God's Word, and experiencing the Sacraments together.



December 3, 2017

9:30am Worship

10:40am Fellowship

11:00am GracePath