

# Word of Grace

*Jesus said, "You're not listening. Let me say it again. Unless a person submits to this original creation—the 'wind-hovering-over-the-water' creation, the invisible moving the visible, a baptism into a new life—it's not possible to enter God's kingdom." John 3:5 (The Message)*

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## A Season of Change, Did You Notice?

Did you notice how fast the season changed? It just seemed like yesterday it was winter. But spring has come and gone, and summer is close behind. Did you notice the change?

Did you notice how fast the church changed? It seems like yesterday we were talking about not having any money, wanting young children to come, expanding our mission outreach. Did you notice the change?

Did you notice how fast the building changed? It seems like just the other day when we had a leaky roof, the air conditioner was on the blitz, the sanctuary needed

remodeled, bathrooms and offices needed to be accessible. Did you notice the change?

Did you notice how fast the staff changed? It seems like only a moment has passed since Kathy, Melinda, and Damian joined Kitty and Sally as part of those who take care of the congregation. Did you notice the change?

Did you notice how the business of the church changed? It seems a long time ago when we pitted each other against one another and voted on matters. But now we discuss, discern and decide. No more winners and losers, only a group of people trying to do what God wants us to do. Did you notice?

Did you notice the new generation of people who attend? Did you notice how the average age of the congregation is now younger? Did you notice the average attendance is still 178, which is more than twice

what it was seven years ago? Did you notice?

Well, if you didn't notice, you must have been sleeping for the past seven years. Did you notice it's been seven years? It seems like just yesterday. Maybe, if we've learned nothing else about life in the kingdom, we can understand better "in the twinkling of an eye we shall be changed." For me, the past seven years seem like only the twinkling of an eye.

Since the season of our time together grows short, I thought I would remind you of a few of the things that changed. And all these changes were good. And these changes don't include the spiritual growth of leaders in the church. I will allow you to ponder on the leadership of the church and how those lives have been changed because they have dug deep into the well-spring of love that is Jesus.

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Whether or not you can tell, I have changed too. I've slowed down a little bit. Though tomorrow is still way too late, I'm more like a Lear jet than a Supersonic.

I'm a little more patient, although still extremely irritated when people don't want to do something "just because they don't want to do something," or "it was someone else's idea," or the worst, "well, we just don't do it that way."

I am a little hard of hearing, and because of that, I have become a better listener.

But there are some things that haven't changed about me. I am even more compassionate toward the oppressed, the down-trodden, the abused. We recently discussed homosexuality and the church. I tell you once again, the church must reach out with God's love to all people. And I hope we never stop being compassionate for those society ostracizes. The new church start will be heavily directed towards those who don't have a relationship with God and those who want the church to be the church, and not just do church.

I still believe that war (i.e., military conflict) is not a necessary evil, but a sinful waste of human life. No one wins in war. Everyone loses. And there is nothing about war worth celebrating, not even its conclusion. War is only worth lamenting. And I will continue to advocate for achieving peace through non-violent means. I will continue to advocate that we turn our swords into plowshares.

*Mie*

## McGuire's Simple Gifts

What a pleasure it is to offer you a greeting of grace and peace. And it is the grace and peace of God who in and through Jesus Christ continues to call us to be the people of the gospel, to be the bearers of the word to the world.

What a pleasure it is for us, the McGuire family, to offer you one last simple gift. I hope you will put it on your calendar, invite a friend, and consider an above and beyond gift to help retire the debt. Donna and Ken Hanson have already pledged a gift to the evening and said they would double it if we could get Shawn to play his violin. That's creative thinking.

On June 21, 2009 at 6:30 pm, the McGuire family will offer an evening of praise. This evening will have a three fold purpose. The first is to offer praise and thanks to God in song. The second will be to say thank you and to share our love with you. The third will be our last effort to raise some money for the retirement of the debt on our Building to Give Campaign. If you remember, our campaign is actually *Giving to Build, Building to Give*. So this is our gift giving to you.

Peace,

*Mie*

**WANTED:**  
**Children and Youth Sunday**  
**School Teachers**  
**Facilitator for a Summer Book**  
**Study**

## Christian Education Ministry Events

Sunday Bible Study  
*The Apostle Paul - 9:15 a.m.*  
 Noah's Ark Room

Summer Men's Study  
 Tony Dungy's *Uncommon: Finding Your Path To Significance*  
 Wednesday Evenings 7 begins June 17

Safe and Sacred Certification Training -  
 Only One Session is Required  
 June 3, 6 - 8 pm  
 June 17, 6 - 8 pm  
 If you plan to attend one of these sessions, please notify Kathy Williams ([kwilliams@emporiagrace.org](mailto:kwilliams@emporiagrace.org) or 481-1932)

Confirmation Sunday  
 June 21, 2009

Vacation Bible School  
 Grace UMC, First UMC and LaEsperanza  
 First UMC - 823 Merchant Street  
 July 26 - July 30, 6 - 8 pm  
**Volunteers Needed:** Bible Story Teachers, Recreation, Arts and Crafts, Group Leaders, Snacks

## Yard Sale

The Board of Trustees fund raiser will be a yard sale in the parking lot on Saturday, June 20, from 8 am to 12 pm. **In case of rain** the sale will be held in the fellowship hall. Some of the items to be sold are office desks, filing cabinets, long tables, sofa, loveseat, recliner, foosball table that needs work, other misc articles. Now is a good time to clean out those closets, garages, and cabinets. Please bring your items that you are donating to the sale on **Friday afternoon, June 19**. All proceeds will go to the general budget. Call the church office for more information 342-2240.

## Missions Ministry

### Angel Food Ministries June delivery & order dates:

Thursday June 11, 10 am - 2 pm

Friday June 12, 2 - 6 pm

Saturday June 13, 10 am - 2 pm

Delivery date is Sat., June 27, 8:30 am.

The June menus may be picked up in the church office or you may go to

[emporiagrace.org](http://emporiagrace.org) and follow the link to [angelfoodministries.com](http://angelfoodministries.com).

**NEW!** Orders for Angel Food at Grace UMC may now be placed online for your convenience.

### Just follow these simple steps:

Go to [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com)

- Click on order online
- Type in your zip code (66801) to bring up locations in our area
- Scroll down to Grace UMC and click on the order online tab
- Site info will come up click on the next tab
- Place your order
- Enter your information (name ,address etc)
- Select your payment type
- Please note there is a \$1 charge for online orders
- Print your receipt for your records

It's that simple...

We still place orders at the church as we have in the past. Online ordering is strictly a convenience for those who need it. All orders placed online at our location are credited to our order.

## Sock It To Me Sundays

The Missions Ministry is sponsoring *Sock It to Me Sundays* in June to collect socks for the Back to School Clothing Giveaway. New socks, either a pair or a package, in children's sizes pre-school to adult, boys or girls, will help very much. Just bring your donation of socks during the month of June and leave them in the basket.

## Annual Back to School Giveaway

The annual Back to School Giveaway will be held **Saturday, August 8**. Grace will again be helping families provide school clothing for their children.

We ask that you begin to help us prepare for this wonderful mission opportunity. As you do your spring cleaning, please check for any school age (Pre-K through High school) like-new clothing. Check the clearance racks at clothing and shoe stores. Get the word out! Tell your friends and neighbors that we are collecting items. Shop garage sales, and offer to pick up leftover items from garage sales.

All donations can be dropped off at the church. Thank you for helping with this project. If you would like to be part of this wonderful mission outreach, please contact Cindy Krisman 343-6663 or contact the church office 342-2240.

## Abundant Harvest

Churches and volunteer groups from all over Emporia help serving the meals at Abundant Harvest at 1028 Whittier Street. Grace UMC serves on the second Wednesday and the fourth Monday of every month. This special outreach program serves warm meals to anyone who need one at no cost. Grace sends a team of five volunteers just two days a month and we are there from 5 pm till 6:30 pm. It's time for us to sign up again. A sign up board will be available in Fellowship Hall starting June 1. You can sign up for one day or several days. Please help out by signing up for whatever days you can. You will receive much more than you give.

## Missions Camp

Missions Camp will be held **July 13-16** from 6 - 8 pm (Monday through Thursday). Circle your calendars and reserve this date. We will be doing some really great things! Children who will be

entering 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in the 2009-2010 year through high school are eligible for registration. Look for more information to come.

## Farewell for Pastor Mic

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) announces plans for honoring Pastor Mic during his last Sunday at Grace United Methodist Church. At the conclusion of the worship service June 28, the Worship Planning Committee will conduct a brief "sending off" ceremony. Following the worship service will be a potluck luncheon. During that luncheon SPRC will recognize the many contributions of the McGuire family to Grace UMC.

## Rethink Church

Launched May 6, Rethink Church seeks to help UMC members reassess what it means to be people of faith. To further this work locally, United Methodists can find resources for Rethink Church at a new Web site, [www.rethinkchurch.org](http://www.rethinkchurch.org). As the next evolution of the denomination's "Open hearts" advertising and welcoming campaign, Rethink Church seeks to redefine the church experience beyond the church doors and invite people to become engaged in the world.

The Web site offers both annual conferences and congregations resources for getting started, including a bishops' task list, a Rethink Church 101 guide, an FAQ, and a conference-level launch strategy. The site also describes Rethink Church training opportunities.

In addition, [rethinkchurch.org](http://rethinkchurch.org) offers downloadable tools, such as videos and graphics for use in worship.

# June Events

**Our regular weekly schedule:**

**Sun**

9 am Music/Sunday School  
 9:15 am Sun School  
 10 am Worship Service  
 6:30 pm Worship Service

**Mon**

7 pm Boy Scouts  
 7 pm *Who Stole My Church*

**Tues**

9 am Bible Study

**Wed**

5:30 pm Worship Planning  
 7 pm Voices of Grace

**Wednesday June 3**

6-8:30 pm Safe & Sacred Training

**Saturday June 6**

8:30 am UMW Executive Meeting  
 10 am UMW General Meeting

**Sunday June 7**

12 pm Membership meeting  
 12 pm Health & Wellness

**Tuesday June 9**

7 pm Phebe Group

**Wednesday June 10**

2 pm Abigail & Joanna  
 5 pm Abundant Harvest

**Thursday June 11**

10 am Angel Food Orders  
 7 pm Finance Ministry

**Friday June 12**

2 pm Angel Food Orders

**Saturday June 13**

10 am Angel Food Orders

**Wednesday June 17**

6-8:30 pm Safe & Sacred Training

**Saturday June 20**

8 am-12 pm Yard Sale

**Sunday June 21**

11:30 am Church Council  
 12:30 pm Missions Ministry  
 1 pm Education Ministry  
 6:30 pm McGuires Simple Gift Concert

**Monday June 22**

5 pm Abundant Harvest

**Wednesday June 24**

1:30 pm Create to Share

**Thursday June 25**

5:30 pm Parish Visitors  
 5:30 pm WOW Group

**Saturday June 27**

7:30 am Angel Food Distribution

**The Prayer Shawl Ministry** will take a brief summer break. The next meeting will be Sunday, August 23 at 4 pm.

## In the Word

June 7 Ezekiel 19-25  
 June 14 Ezekiel 26-32  
 June 21 Ezekiel 33-39  
 June 28 Ezekiel 40-46

# Flint Hills Prayer Calendar

June 7 Wilsey  
 June 14 St. Marys/Emmett/Belvue  
 June 21 Reading  
 June 28 Marysville/Oketo

Let us pray.

*Heavenly and merciful Father, we lift up the Flinthills District of the United Methodist Church. Always we seek your guidance as we strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We pray for the churches, ministries, and United Methodist organizations, that they will listen to your wishes for them so that their activities will be pleasing to you and help them to foster discipleship. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.*

