

March 2022



WORDS OF GRACE

Monthly Newsletter

Inside the Issue

A NOTE FROM PASTOR BRAD

This month Pastor Brad shares some of his thoughts about being "Devoted" and how this may look in our lives.

TELL YOURSELF THE TRUTH!

This month's Justeen Bond shares the Women of Grace Monthly Reflection. Hear what she has to say about difficult times and how God uses them to help us grow.

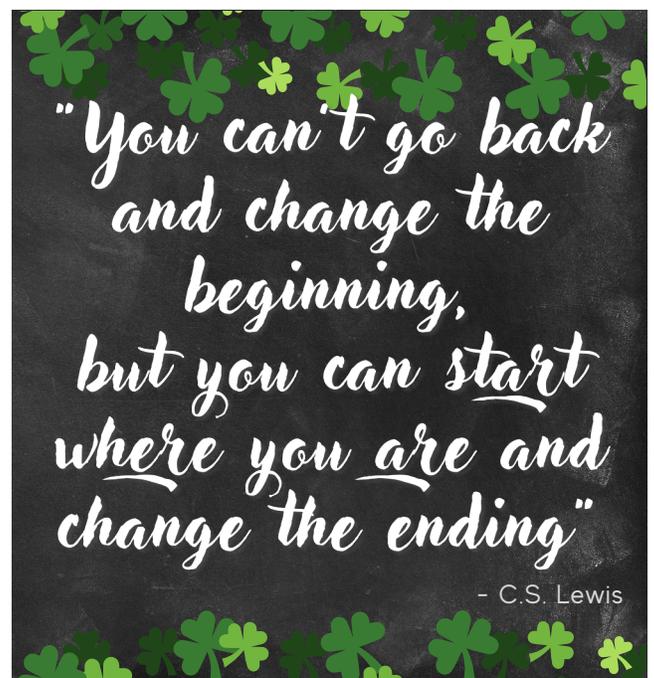
CHECK OUT PAGE 3! GET INVOLVED!

- Feed My Starving Children
- Help for the Homeless
- Women's Breakfast
- Change-a-Life Mission Box
- Picture Directory

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS...

- Mar 2 Ash Wednesday, Seek God for the City begins...
- Mar 6 Worship with Communion
Last day for "Help for the Homeless"
- Mar 7 Ministry Leaders Meeting, 6:30pm
- Mar 10 Missions Team meeting, 6:30pm
- Mar 11 Youth "Open Gym" @ Grace Fellowship Hall
- Mar 13 Daylight Savings Time begins!
- Mar 19 Women's Breakfast and Fellowship, 8:45am
Elders Fellowship 6:30pm
- Mar 28 Deacons Meeting, 6:30pm
Elders Meeting, 6:30pm

Staff vacation: Brad out of office March 18-28



- C.S. Lewis

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that the Elders will have wisdom as they seek God's face and God's direction for us to join in His mission as the Grace Family, and as they look for God's guidance in shepherding His people.
- Pray for the Deacons to have wisdom as they come along side hurting people, and steward the resources with which we have been blessed.
- Pray for the Ministry Leaders to experience God's presence and power as they lead their ministries.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- **8:45am** Sunday Mornings at Grace Church
- **6:30pm** Tuesday Evenings Corporate Prayer at Grace Church
- **6:30am** Wednesdays Men's Prayer - Prayer Room
- **8:00am** Thursday Mornings Men's Coffee Fellowship & Prayer at Grace

PRAYER & ENCOURAGEMENT CONNECTIONS

- Mondays at noon
- Wednesdays at noon
- Fridays at 7:30am

The easiest way to access these Zoom gatherings is to go to the homepage of the website, hover your cursor over the "Contact Us" tab and click on the "Prayer & Encouragement" tab. Use the password **ConnectwGRACE** to access the links for each time!

A NOTE FROM PASTOR BRAD



Devoted...

Over the course of the past three weeks, I have had the opportunity to preach out of Acts 2:42-47, a passage typically used for explaining how the church looked and acted in the first century.

While it would not be incorrect to use the text for such a purpose, I do feel it misses the bigger picture that God may want us to see, and which the Holy Spirit inspired Luke to record. There were, after all, probably other ways that the believers in Christ 'did life together' that weren't recorded in detail for us, and perhaps that was to avoid what God knew we would do with them - Make them into habits and practices, and ultimately traditions, which would be exclusive and prohibitive of others joining us.

I think that the bigger picture to which I was referring is found in the verb "*devoted*". As I mentioned recently, the Greek word **Proskartereo** means "*strong towards; persevere in; courageous for; steadfast in.*" So, what **were** they ultimately devoted to?

When we consider the culture in which they were living, it would have been very easy for them to remain "blended in" with the norms of the time. They could have kept to themselves in their worship by not attending the temple. They could have not celebrated the *Breaking of Bread*, instead choosing to revert to the sacrifices of the Old Covenant. They could have chosen to not sell their possessions for the sake of helping relative strangers, and instead choosing to continue to keep the law of Leviticus in its measured care for the poor or alien. They could have.... But they didn't!

Because of Christ..... and that's what they were devoted to!

I believe that they were "*strong towards*" the overwhelming peace that came through the silencing of condemnation. I believe they were "*steadfast in*" the removal of the pervasive shame and the gnawing guilt of never quite measuring up. I believe they were "*courageous for*" the freedom they now had from perfectly practicing the Law, and that they "*persevered in*" the undeserved favor of God towards them - who had once been His enemies and now were His children.

They didn't do this because they were the church, or even because people called them "Christians" and so expected them to act differently. This devotion came through the Holy Spirit convicting them of their sin toward God and their need for repentance from that sin. They were, as Jesus had described to Nicodemus, "*born again by the Spirit of God*" and therefore, as Paul later wrote in his second letter to the Corinthians "*a new creation in Christ with the old having passed away and the new come.*"

They lived as they did because the "*love of Christ controlled them in such a way that they no longer lived for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.*" My question for us is this, "Do we live in a way that people could write the same of us?" ...or even ask the question of us, "To what are you devoted?"

Brad

NEWS & NOTES



THE FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN MOBILEPACK IS FAST APPROACHING!

Mark your calendars for Friday, April 1st, and Saturday, April 2, 2022. The sign-up for the MobilePack goes live on March 1, 2022. To register for the event or give a donation visit: <https://bit.ly/FDLFMS2022>. If you would prefer to mail your donation please send it to:

Feed My Starving Children
 (ATTN: MobilePack #2204-051SC)
 401 93rd Avenue NW
 Coon Rapids, MN 55433
 Please make checks be payable to:
 FMSC, memo line MobilePack #2204-051SC



Daylight Savings Time

begins on Sunday, March 13th! Be sure to set your clocks and **SPRING AHEAD!**



HELP OUR LOCAL SHELTERS & CRISIS PROGRAMS!

Don't forget! We are collecting NEW hygiene and cleaning items for local crisis agencies through The Family Radio's annual "Help for the Homeless" hygiene drive. **The deadline for donations is March 6.** Or make a financial donation for the purchase of supplies for our community at **TheFamily.net**. Supplying these items to local shelters helps them direct their limited funds to providing qualified staff, counseling, food, and shelter to those they serve. **Most urgently needed items are laundry soap, kitchen size trash bags (shelters go thru LOTS of these), shampoo, cleaning supplies, diapers, toilet tissue, and feminine care.**



Ladies, you're invited! Join us for our Women's Breakfast & Fellowship

Saturday | March 19, 2022 | 8:45am
 at Grace Evangelical Free Church

All women, middle school age and up are invited to join us for this special time of food and fellowship. Tickets are available for \$6 and can be purchased at the display in the church lobby. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, March 13th. Contact the Office office@gracechurchfdl.net or Carol Bauer jcb0613@gmail.com for additional information.

DID YOU KNOW...

By helping us update the Grace Picture Directory you are helping us stay connected! In this fast-paced world that we live in databases so quickly become outdated. We get it, information changes! By filling out the form and submitting your current contact information you're helping us double-check our info and all get on the same page. How cool is that?!

That is why we're asking that everyone participate (even if you've done so before) so that we can be sure we have the most updated information printed and available. You'll also be asked to update your email preferences. **Pick up a paper form or fill it out online by going to our website www.gracechurchfdl.org/registration.**

If you've never purchased a directory they are available for \$15 from the Grace Office (to help cover the cost of the binder & materials). *Any updates that are printed are available at no cost to you!*

Need an updated picture taken for the directory?
 Sign up to have your picture taken after a worship service Sunday, March 6th, 13th, or 20th you can have your picture taken after the worship service. Sign up today or call the office during office hours.



Change A Life

Mission Box Project

IT'S BACK!
 WHO'S READY TO CHANGE SOME LIVES!?



Bring your "change" to church each Sunday (or throughout the week during office hours) for our "Change A Life" Mission box project. Boxes are located at the Info Booth and up in the Fellowship Hall. Our goal is to collect \$50 a month to go to the kids at Mahali Pa Maisha in Kenya.

Dear Friends of Parent Life.

We just want to thank you for choosing us to be recipients of your Christmas Giving Tree Project this year.

Twenty of our teen parents and their children received gifts and food because of your Christ-like love. To each of you gave, shopped and wrapped, your efforts brought great joy from the bottoms of our hearts we thank you!



THANK YOU

- Parent Life of Badgerland YFC

I want to give a huge thank you to the people who have saved stamps for the Stamp Ministry. The ministry has raised \$30,000 so far this year for Sunday School materials from stamps that usually get thrown away. So, please keep saving the stamps throughout the year, even stamps from unsolicited mail. They just have to be physical stamps. And please leave a 1/3 inch around the stamps. Thank you again!

Many blessings, Justeen Bond justeenb@centurytel.net

MARCH AWANA SCHEDULE

- Mar. 6 - Backwards Night
- Mar. 13 - Green Night
- Mar. 20 - S'mores Night (**bring s'more friends!**)
- Mar. 27 - Dress Like A Mess Night





Monthly Reflection

Tell Yourself the Truth

Submitted by Justeen Bond

God's presence is with me wherever I go and into any stressful situation I face. We are living in confusing times where we may not understand why things are happening as they are. These times can be emotionally draining. We may be challenged, but we will never despair completely if we rest in God and remember that our hope is found in Him. Therefore, I need not worry, God is willing to take my stress, so why should I keep it for myself?

Tell yourself the Truth.

Difficult times are one of the methods God uses to teach me who He is and how He operates. I can still have hope, security, and peace within these times because God graciously provides Himself in the person of the Holy Spirit, who indwells and empowers me to respond rightly. He sees, hears, and feels all that I do because nothing escapes His attention. God knows our pressures, our conflicts, and our struggles as He is the divine filter through which everything must pass. Miraculously though, He has the remedy for every stress I face. His remedy is to rest in Him and possibly abandon some responsibilities He never meant for me to carry.

Tell yourself the Truth.

We do have responsibilities to counteract our unhealthy emotions and negativity that may surround us. I need to constantly remind myself that God is Sovereign and is in everything. He has a plan and a purpose, even in what we may consider terrible circumstances. I also must remind myself that I need to just TRUST God in all things (Romans 8:28) and to even PRAISE Him in difficult circumstances. This is where our peace truly must be found.

Tell yourself the Truth.

1. Are you seeking Him diligently? *Deliberately work at giving the Lord first place, which will probably require sacrifice.*
2. Do you remember His promises? *Commit some key verses to memory.*
3. How can I encourage someone today? *Seek out a friend in need.*
4. Am I reading His Word everyday for my own encouragement? *Commit to spend time in God's Word each day in 2022.*
5. What suffering have I experienced that God has brought me through that has produced perseverance, character, and hope? *Give thanks for it.*
6. Does God have top priority in my life, or is He an afterthought? *Call Him Lord of your Life.*
7. How does "among us" impact the way you see Jesus? *Acknowledge that Jesus is among us.*
8. What new thing is God doing in your life and heart right now? *Remind yourself of them often.*

Let's focus on God and not our circumstances in order to practice gratefulness and contentment. "You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!" (Is. 26:3) Commit to honestly assessing how you are doing in your relationship with the Lord. **Tell yourself the Truth.**

PRAY: Lord, My life is often stressful. You know the reason, the people, the events, the health concerns, family issues, and every issue that I have - you know them all. Take them, Father, and in return give me your peace. You are the Truth.

I love each of you and God loves you even more.

Justeen Bond

The Anchor Holds

by Jack Witte

“Be still my soul ... the Lord is on thy side. With patience bear thy cross of grief or pain. Leave to thy God to order and provide ... In every change, He faithful will remain.”

Well-known hymn

This hymn was written in the 17th century by Katrina A. von Schlegel, yet the words of this beautiful hymn never seem to lose their meaning. Each of us have experienced painful and grief-filled times in our lives, times that have left us stunned by what has occurred, leaving us confused as to what we should do next, or where we might turn for help. Like the loss of a loved one, a car accident, a loss of a job, or some other catastrophic happening. God gives us great advice in times like this for He is forever telling us ... “BE STILL!”

The Bible is forever encouraging us to *be still* when we face difficult times, and put all of our worries, the confusion, and the concern in God's hands. Instead of letting the noise of the storms around us capture our thoughts, we are to listen to the voice of God. Sometimes God will allow trials to come into our lives so they will serve the purpose of drawing us closer to Him. Our family verse, the verse we always depend on in difficult times, is Psalm 46:10 ... “**BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD!**” God is telling us in this verse to stay calm for He's still in control of all things. Stop fearing and trust in Him instead.

Find a place where you can be alone, and in the quiet of that place ... BE STILL! Relax and remember He's in control. Think of the times He has helped you in the past and confidently ask Him to intercede for you now. Someone once said, “The quieter you become, the more you can hear”, so stop worrying and put your focus on our Great God. Allow God's word to flood you with His grace. The world and this problem you are facing will try to grip you and hold you captive, but God's word can set you free. Just listen to what God is telling us ... “*The Lord will fight for you while you keep still!*” (Exodus 14:14) God tells us ... “*Now then ... stand still! See this great thing the Lord is about to do before your eyes.*” (1 Samuel 12:16) And repeat this promise of God over and over again as you face times of trouble and concern ... remember this ... Jesus will give us a peace in times of trouble that the world cannot offer.

*Jesus, in the quiet of this morning we turn this new day over to You,
as we confidently journey into what this day holds for us,
knowing You are our Anchor and You will never fail us.*

God has a plan..

I copied this writing many years ago and came upon it recently. I don't know who wrote it, but it's worth sharing ... “God writes straight and crooked lines for the design of each of our lives. On that day you or I accept God's Son Jesus as Lord, He draws a 'straight' line that leads from our hearts to heaven. Then He draws another line. This line has curves, valleys, mountains, and maybe even a few detours. This is the line He calls 'life'. The good news is that we can trust in Him to provide for both and each line has the same finishing point.”

The “straight” line that God has drawn need never be doubted, for He has promised many times in the Bible that we will be saved, and His Holy Word cannot be changed.

The “life” line however sometimes is an adventure. As I think back over the many years I have walked with Christ, there were times when the curves, the valleys, and the mountains seemed impossible to navigate, and then were those detours where I found myself distancing myself from God's Word and His direction. But always, the Holy Spirit within me has drawn me back to that “straight” line that God created for me to follow.

None of us know what the future of our “life” line will hold, but we can be certain of the “straight” line that one day will take us to our Heavenly home.

The words from the great hymn “Great is Thy faithfulness” come to mind ... “Thou changes not, Thy compassion it fails not, great is Your faithfulness, Lord, unto to me”.

Your Anchor will hold and will never fail!

Your Anchor will hold ... in spite of your storms!



163 18th Street
 Fond du Lac, WI 54935
 office@gracechurchfdl.net
 www.gracechurchfdl.org

CORPORATE PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES:
 Sunday mornings at 8:45am
 Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm
 Wednesday AM Men's prayer at 6:30am.

*All meet at
 Grace Church
 building*

GRACE CHURCH STAFF

Head Pastor & Chief Shepherd - *Jesus Christ*

Pastor Grant Baumgart - *Worship & Admin*
 cell: 948-6373 email: baumgart@gracechurchfdl.net

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 cell: 313-0456 email: rutherford@gracechurchfdl.net

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Administrative Assistant - *Carol Blain*
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Communications/Media Coordinator - *Rachel Tittel*
 email: cmc@gracechurchfdl.net

Custodian - *Mark Jopling*
 phone: 922-7211 cell: (920) 979-3944

Custodial Assistant - *Jen Koenigs*

Elder on Call: *Friday, Saturday & Sunday*
 (920) 948-9262

Offering & Attendance

1/02/2022	\$420	no count
1/09/2022	\$2,365	no in-person
1/16/2022	\$13,459	87
1/23/2022	\$3,295	88
1/30/2022	\$17,095	103

January Weekly Ave: \$7,326.80 93

**Weekly average needed to meet budget
 \$10,142**

Year to Date Givings \$266,301
 Year to Date Expenses \$255,075

Totals reflect January month-end totals

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit information for the
April Words of Grace
 to the church office by **March 15th.**
 You can contact the office at (920) 922-7211 or
 office@gracechurchfdl.net

Office Hours are:
 Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:30pm
 Friday 8:00am-11:30am