

June 2023

WORDS OF GRACE

Monthly Newsletter

Inside the Issue

THIS MONTH'S PASTOR PAGE

This month, Brad shares some ideas about misunderstandings, reactions, feeling and emotions, and looks at Jesus' example for responding when it happens.

BON VOYAGE - GOD IS ON THE MOVE!

An adventure is just around the corner for a team of eight from Grace. See page 4 to read more about their upcoming travels and how you can take part!

SUMMER IS AROUND THE CORNER

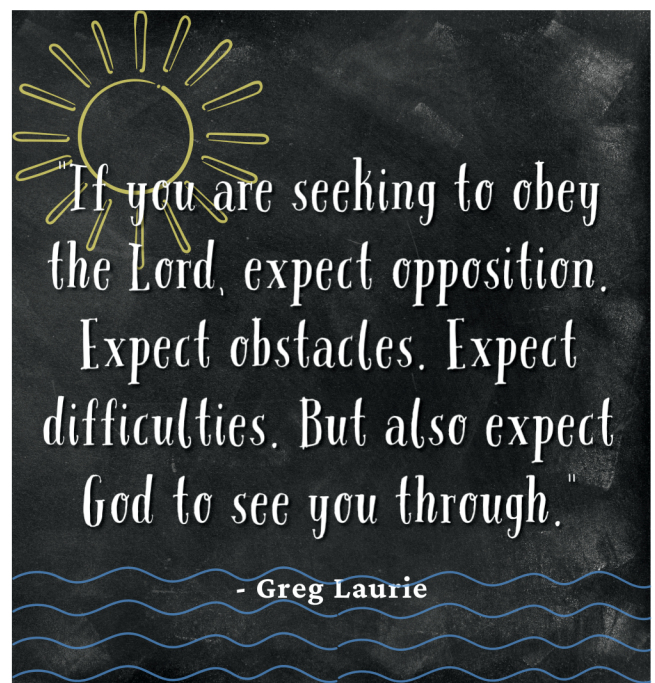
We have a lot going on both here at Grace and within the community. See our News & Notes page (pg. 3) for more information! Take a peek and see how you can get involved.

JUNE HIGHLIGHTS...

- June 3 Summer Picnic, 4:00pm at Grace Church
- June 4 Worship Service with Communion
Welcome New Members!
- June 5 Elders Meeting at 6:30pm
- June 10-11 Walleye Weekend at Lakeside Park
- June 11 Sunday Morning Worship at Grace
- June 15 Missions Team meets at 6:30pm
- June 17-23 Camp of the Woods Mission Trip
- June 19 Deacon's Meeting at 6:30pm
- June 26 Elders Fellowship Night
- June 27 Summer Dance Workshop begins

Softball games are on Monday Evenings. See the schedule on page 3

PLEASE NOTE: WEEKLY STAFF MEETINGS ARE USUALLY MONDAY MORNINGS AT 8:30AM



A NOTE FROM PASTOR BRAD



Grace Family,

When I first arrived in Wisconsin nine years ago, I was expecting to be reasonably well-understood by those who, I thought, also spoke English. Much to my surprise, there were tones and pronunciation that people used in their accents that sometimes made communication a “hit or miss affair”. On one such occasion, I was asked by a salesperson whether I wanted “a beg for that?” Since I had just paid for the item, I couldn’t understand why I would want to beg for that! After a look of confusion came over me, and the salesperson tried in vain to repeat the question, just a little louder, Beth came to our rescue by saying to me, “do you want a BAG for that?” I responded immediately...” Yes please.”

I am sure that most of us have not made it this far through life without having been misunderstood at least once. Most often, being misunderstood is also accompanied by feelings of disappointment, frustration, and perhaps even anger.

If the above is the case, then I would like to suggest that we are in good company. If we look back at the life of Jesus recorded in the Gospels, we find many occasions where Jesus was misunderstood by his listeners, which led them to a variety of misguided feelings and emotions. John 8 records a lengthy conversation with the Jews that ends up in vs. 48, “*Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?*” (Ouch! Racial slur, “you’re not even a Jew, Jesus, and what’s more, you’re possessed by Satan!”) In John 10:24, Jesus encounters the Jews again when they say, “*How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.*” (Read “we doubt that you are, but tell us anyway”.) Pilate, likewise, in John 18 asks, “*Are you the king of the Jews?*” (Can you hear the unspoken thoughts? “... because you’re not acting like any king I know”.) In John 20, when the disciples, upon reaching the tomb, go inside and find it empty, John records, “*for as yet they did not understand the scripture*”. These are just four incidents where people, who had witnessed the power and wisdom of God in the person of Jesus Christ, did not grasp what they were seeing or hearing in the moment.

So, what was the difference between them - the Jews, Pilate, and the disciples - that led some to repent, believe, and follow, and others to harden their hearts, not believe, and turn their backs on their salvation?

Great question! It is impossible to unequivocally state that there was one thing, but I would point us to the working of Holy Spirit, to the humility that comes through surrender, and to an ongoing relationship with God - even after events took a serious turn for the worse!

It is the same in our personal lives when we are not fully understood by a person in a given situation. As we seek to reach a world that is lost in its sin and without hope in this life, there will be, (and I am sure have been), times when people misunderstand your words or intentions. What is your response to that?

Many people would turn their backs on the person and not bother engaging with them in the future. After all, we reason with ourselves that we tried, and it didn’t work. However, if we are to yield to the Holy Spirit, humble ourselves before God in surrender to him, and seek to pursue the relationship for the sake of the other person’s state of being, then we must tell God in prayer, “not my will but your will be done.” We must act in the way that Jesus encouraged us, as found in Matthew 5 and 6 and “*Love our enemy and pray for those who persecute us*” or “*Go the extra mile*” or “*Turn the other cheek*” or “*Forgive others their trespasses.*” Ultimately, as Paul writes to the church in Romans 12:21, “*we are not to overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*” But how, we ask? In Romans 13:14, Paul helps us, and I conclude with, “*But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*”

Brad

NEWS & NOTES

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SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

- June 5th at 7:00pm | JGF
- June 12th at 7:00pm | Evans
- June 19th at 6:00pm | Evans
- June 26th at 8:00pm | JGF
- July 10th at 7:00pm | JGF
- July 17th at 6:00pm | JGF
- July 24th at 6:00pm | JGF

Weather permitting

*Evans - Evans
Elementary School
*JGF - Jimmy George
Field at Lakeside Park

There is NO GAME ON MON. JULY 3RD | Playoff seed is determined by overall league record | JULY 31ST & AUG. 7TH will be playoffs if no makeups are needed



EFCA
DOCTRINES

- God
- The Bible
- The Human Condition
- Jesus Christ
- The Work of Christ
- The Holy Spirit
- The Church
- Christian Living
- Christ's Return
- Response & Eternal Destiny

Discipleship Class

SUNDAYS JUNE 11-AUG.13

11:00AM AT GRACE

Join the Elders of Grace as they present this 10-part class on the 10 essential doctrines of the Evangelical Free Church of America. This discipleship class is suggested for youth & adults and will take place on Sunday mornings at 11:00am, after the worship service. See the list to the left for a schedule of topics being covered. *Come learn more about the EFCA in this interactive class!* Sign up at the Connection Center by Sunday, June 4th! Childcare available upon request.



All 5th graders going into 6th grade in Fall 2023, are invited to participate in the youth's summer activities. In order to participate, parents need to complete two forms, a medical info sheet and a waiver/permission to transport for trips. Both need to be completed prior to participation in the first activity so that your son/daughter may join. Forms can be returned to Brad at the church building or given to him on the day of the event.

- June 7: Youth Meeting** @GEFC Building 5:30-7:00pm
- June 15: Youth Meeting** @GEFC Building 5:30-7:00pm
- June 17-23: Camp of the Woods Mission Trip**
- June 28: Mini Golf & Plymouth Aquatic Center**, Noon-5:00pm. Bring a bag lunch and \$5 each for golf and pool.

Wednesday Night Youth meetings at Grace are from 5:30-7:00pm. The study will be "The Chosen, Season 3", with supper and discussion.

Pick up a printed copy of the full summer schedule from the Info Board at church or download it from our website: www.gracechurchfdl.org

DEEP DIVE INTO GOD'S CREATION SUNDAY MORNINGS

**JUNE 4 - AUG. 27
FROM 11:00-NOON**

Deep Dive into God's Creation, is a Sunday morning DVD-based study, hosted by Mitch Swanson which will begin June 4th and meet weekly through August. See the list on the left for a schedule of topics. Materials are produced by the Institute for Creation Research. (www.icr.org). This study is open to teens and adults. Childcare is available upon request. Sign up at the Connection Center today!

- 6/4 - Mt. St. Helens
- 6/11 - Replacing Darwin's Scared Imposter
- 6/18 - God of Wonders
- 6/25 - DNA Battles - Were Adam & Eve Historical?
- 7/2 - Human Design: The Making of a Baby
- 7/9 - The Ice Age: Real and Recent
- 7/16 - The Human Body: Divine Engineering
- 7/23 - The Miracle of Birth & The Marvel of Eyes
- 7/30 - Uniquely Human Hands & Beauty in Motion
- 8/6 - Journey through Space - 1
- 8/13 - Journey through Space - 2
- 8/20 - Astronomy Reveals Creation
- 8/27 - Why We Need Christian Apologetics

SAVE THE DATE

Registration for this year's Vacation Bible Camp, "Keepers of the Kingdom" goes LIVE on Friday, June 30th! VBC is for kids who have completed 4k thru 5th grade.

Dates: Mon. July 31-Fri. Aug. 4, 2023 **Cost:** \$5 per child or \$15 per family (3 or more children) to be paid on the first day of the program! Register on our website or request a paper form from the office. Watch for posters and postcards to share with your friends soon...



The date is set! Plans are underway! A team of 14 from Grace Church is heading up to CAMP OF THE WOODS in Ontario, Canada. They depart on Sat. June 17th and will return on Fri. June 23. Take some time today to lift up this team in prayer: Brad, Beth & Abby Rutherford, Rachel & Bekah Titel, Ashlianna Murphy, Jen, Maddie & Ian Koenigs, Leo Soeller, Ben Petrie, Lindy Christenson, Dan Roberts & Keith Bestul. THANK YOU for praying!



FDL HIGH SCHOOL BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

To celebrate the faith of our graduating seniors, the annual FDL High School Baccalaureate service will be held at 3:30pm on Thursday, June 1st. This year's service is being hosted by Holy Family Church (271 Fourth Street Way). The service will include praise and worship, scripture readings from Fondy seniors, and Baccalaureate messages by Bill Morgan, a retiring teacher, and Pastor Adam Utech. The service will conclude by 4:30pm, allowing students time to prepare for and attend the graduation ceremony at the high school. **Working together with FDL High School, the Fond du Lac Area Ministerial Association is pleased to sponsor this service, hosted by various churches each year.**



We Need You!

July 31-Aug. 4

COME
HELP AT
VBC!



Lots of fun jobs
yet to be filled



Help share the
love of Jesus



And have a great
time while serving

Contact Traci Soeller soellert@gmail.com. Jen Koenigs tuffy2303@yahoo.com, or the Grace Office (920) 922-7211 to learn more!



Global Missions & LOCAL OUTREACH

BON VOYAGE | AN ADVENTURE AWAITS

This coming October, a team of eight from Grace Church will be traveling to Nice, France to partner with missionaries, Steve & Faye Daniels. Steve & Faye are Fond du Lac natives, with a passion for seeing French people of all ages encounter Christ and choose to walk in love and obedience to God.

Currently the team consists of: Pastor Grant & Rebekah Baumgart, Hope DelPonte, Lily Hernandez, Ashlianna Murphy, Diane Nick, Rachel Titel, & Leah Tweedy. They are in the midst of fundraising, learning more about France & the French culture, and preparing for the trip.

But why Nice? The city of Nice has a population of 300,000 people and is located on the famous Côte d'Azur on the Mediterranean Sea. Although, according to the internet, about 50% of people in France say that they are Christian, there is still a great need there for the hope & lasting joy that a relationship with the Lord brings.

Our team will be leaving on Thursday, October 5, 2023, and returning home on Monday, October 16, 2023. During the trip, they will have the opportunity to have engaging conversations at the church-owned outreach café, *Atelier Alfred*. Residents from around the area come to the café to practice their English. While in Nice, the team will also complete some work projects, possibly enjoy "an American Thanksgiving" with the people there, and spend time with Steve & Faye. They will also get some time off to enjoy the sights and sounds of southern France.

This task certainly cannot be accomplished alone! That is why they need your partnership! One of the biggest needs is prayer support. Prayer is vital! There is no way this trip would be possible or successful without the Lord's blessing, protection, and guidance.

The second need is financial support. Each team member must raise \$1,500-2,000 dollars for this trip, which includes: airfare, accommodations, food, ground transport & training. If you are interested in blessing the team with a financial gift, please see the box above for information. Thank you in advance for supporting the France Mission Team as they follow the Lord's leading!

HELP OUR TEAM REACH THE PEOPLE
OF FRANCE WITH THE LOVE OF JESUS!

WAYS TO GIVE



SCAN THIS QR CODE
OR CONTACT PASTOR
GRANT BAUMGART,
THE FRANCE MISSION
TEAM LEADER AT 920-
922-7211 (OFFICE) OR
920-948-6373 (CELL).

BY MAIL

- SEND A CHECK MADE OUT TO
 - GRACE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH 163
18TH STREET, FOND DU LAC, WI 54935
- BE SURE TO WRITE **FRANCE 2023/FRANCE TEAM** ON THE MEMO LINE.

ONLINE

- GO TO THE GRACE WEBSITE:
WWW.GRACECHURCHFDL.ORG
- CLICK ON THE GREEN "GIVE ONLINE" BUTTON LOCATED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.
- CLICK ON THE "MISSIONS OUTREACH" LINK.
- FILL OUT THE NEEDED INFORMATION. PLEASE BE SURE TO PUT: **FRANCE 2023/FRANCE TEAM** IN THE NOTES.



The Anchor Holds

by Jack Witte

***"Patience with others is love... patience with self is hope...
patience with God is FAITH."*** Adel Bestavros

Peter Marshall once prayed, "Teach us, O lord, the discipline of patience, for to wait is often harder than to work." According to the dictionary, *patience* is "the calm endurance of hardship, provocation, pain, delay... etc." That "etc." can include many different hardships, struggles, problems, and weaknesses - and each of us have our very own.

I must confess, I am not a very patient person, and **my impatience** shows when I am on the golf course waiting for the slow group ahead of me! Or when I am in line at the grocery store, or out in traffic. I am sure many share my dilemma. Yet my impatience helps me to recognize just **how patient God is with me!** As children of the Almighty Father, we are to do what is right, even when we recognize that our choices are wrong. We are slow to grow spiritually when the world and all its distractions have a greater effect on our decision making, than God's Word does.

Thankfully, our **God is a perfect example of patience** and He does not give up on any of us. Being mindful of my impatience helps me to arm myself with God's Word when situations arise. Read these words from Psalm 37:7, "*Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him, do not fret.*" From Romans 12:12 (NRV) we read, "*When you hope, be joyful. When you suffer, be patient and when you pray, be faithful.*" God gives us this instruction in Colossians 3:12 (NIV) "*Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.*"

One more thought, and an important one. We need to **be patient with God**. When you are facing challenges, remember *God is forever at work in your life*. TRUST HIM! Trust Him when the hardest thing for you to do is to trust Him at all. God knows what the situation is that you are facing, and He has a plan that is perfect and if you remain patient, He will show you the way out of whatever trial you're facing. Wait patiently when He doesn't answer your prayers and it seems like He doesn't hear, and the delays are trying and upsetting. BE PATIENT! He knows exactly what to do and when to do it. You'll see... **He will not fail you.**

***I will be your God throughout your lifetime, until your hair is
white with age. I made you and I will carry you. I will carry you
along and save you."*** Isaiah 46:4

They're everywhere! As I look over the landscape of my life, I can't help but recognize *God's fingerprints over every part of it!* The Bible tells us, "*O Lord, You are our Father, we are the clay and You are the potter, all of us are the work of Your hand.*" Isaiah 64:8

I can say, without reservation, that the above verse is true. For I consider my lifetime as evidence that from the day I accepted God's Son Jesus into my life, God our Father has remained true to His word. He has made His presence known to me, and has never failed me.

C.S. Lewis once wrote, "He who has God and has everything has nothing more than he who has God alone." The true value of knowing God cannot be measured. Our earthly treasures are worthless in God's sight, and the only thing that matters is that we know Him and serve Him.

God's love is unconditional and He promises that He will never leave us. He promises that He will be with us to the end of our days we have on this earth, and that one day we will be with Him in heaven. Now that is what I call our "LIFETIME GUARANTEE".

It saddens me to see so many struggling with life on this earth, yet making no effort to really find the answer to life's problems. This is especially true of our youth, who are facing the pressures to live as the world wants them to live, with no room for a relationship with our Heavenly Father. It is for us, believers, the children of God, to take every opportunity to tell the "Good News" that a relationship with our Heavenly Father is the answer - **the only answer to living life on this earth.**

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 6:00am.

*All meet at
Grace Church
building*

GRACE CHURCH STAFF

Head Pastor & Chief Shepherd - *Jesus Christ*

Lead Pastor - *Brad Rutherford*

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

Associate Pastor - *Grant Baumgart*

cell: 948-6373 email: baumgart@gracechurchfdl.net

Administrative Assistant - *Carol Blain*

phone: 922-7211 email: office@gracechurchfdl.net

Communications/Media Coordinator - *Rachel Titel*

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

4/2/2023	\$8,903	175
4/9/2023	\$8,386	250 (Easter)
4/16/2023	\$7,391	181
4/23/2023	\$7,919	187
4/30/2023	\$11,178	185
April Weekly Ave:	\$8,755	195

**Weekly average needed to meet budget
\$9,576**

Year to Date Givings \$407,991
Year to Date Expenses \$406,262

Y-T-D amounts reflect April month-end totals

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit information for the
July Words of Grace
to the church office by June **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