

Grace Friends and Members,

As indicated in last month's Grace Notes, we are setting up laid-back, small-group gatherings of ten people or less to welcome and get to know Pastor Amanda. Covid protocols regarding distancing and wearing masks will continue to be followed. These are deeply important to beginning our ministry together!

Dates Available in September: 19th, 20th, 24th and 26th



SIGN-UP GENIUS LINK: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090b44afa628a6f49-meet>

For those individuals not comfortable with signing up on-line, contact Linda at the church office at 952-435-5696 or office@graceumcburnsville.org.

In Grace, Amelia, Joel and the Grace UMC Council

Administrative Board Meeting ~ Monday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m.

We will be playing it by ear if the meeting will take place at Grace or will be a Zoom event. As with a lot of things these days, construction and Covid 19 will dictate what happens.

OFFICE HOURS: In lieu of the recent decision by the Administrative Board to continue with the on-line service through October 3, 2021, the office hours will continue to stay the same: *Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday ~ 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

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Pastor Amanda will host a digital coffee hour via ZOOM for those four Sundays.

Cozy up to your computer for 10:00 a.m. online worship with a cup of joe or OJ and join us afterwards on Zoom for some much needed connection. The Zoom link will be emailed and posted on the Grace UMC Facebook page each week. Just click the link and follow the prompts. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83676535861>

*If you've never used Zoom before, click the link below and watch this tutorial video.

Stepping outside of our comfort zones can feel hard and scary, but with the right tools and support, doing so may lead to some newfound life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E&t=306s>

In Christ,
Pastor Amanda

Grace Notes

September 2021



*Grounded in hope of inserting the last
piece of the puzzle, we need...*

YOU!!

Grace United Methodist Church

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ



Thursday, September 16th ~ 6:30—8:30 p.m.
 Now Meeting at Grace UMC in the Narthex

Guests and New Members Are Welcome! Shade: A Tale of Two Presidents



Care Package & Backpack Blessing With Instructions

Some of you may have already seen Pastor Amanda addressing these items in a welcome video on our Facebook page, or some of our families with young school children might have already received their care packages. Delivery by Pastor Amanda and company has already begun and will continue until all bags are delivered. Included in the bags are a few snacks, a blessing, a clip-on tag for the children’s backpacks letting them know they are loved, as well as a wallet tag for the parents wishing peace upon them. Also included are instructions on how to use a QR code that we have recently established. Since the pandemic you may have seen or used a QR code at a restaurant. This QR code is a way for Pastor Amanda to get a better picture of the families and youth at Grace and also a way to let their voices be heard as we start to build a picture of the future.

RUTH VOLL CIRCLE

Wednesday, September 29th

1:00 p.m.

Grace United Methodist Church
 15309 Maple Island Road
 Burnsville, MN 55306-5522
 Phone: 952-435-5696

Treasurer: treasurer@graceumcburnsville.org
 Web Site: www.graceumcburnsville.org

Church E-Mail: office@graceumcburnsville.org
 Pastor Amanda Lunemann: Cell phone: 651-503-2242
pastor@graceumcburnsville.org
revlunemann@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS:
 Tuesday, Wednesday
 and Thursday
 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Connection. It’s something we all need. It’s basic to our overall well-being. To be in community is to be more whole. Church is that place we seek and long to feel that connection and community. To one another. To God. To our neighbor.

Covid19 has and is continuing to upend and disrupt so much of our known pathways to connection. Especially when it comes to being church together. Throw in intense construction, a new pastor and a fourth wave of Covid19, and I can only imagine how many of you here at Grace UMC are feeling a deep sense of dis-connection. Frustration. Anger. Lament. I can only imagine how many of you are wondering, “are we even church anymore?”

As your new pastor, I too feel many of those same emotions that arise from perceived Dis-connection. But we are people of faith. And Connection is core to our faith. To what gives us hope and breaths new life of possibility within us.

With ongoing ambiguity and exposure to trauma (racial awakening, climate change effects, political disintegration, etc.), it can be difficult to notice opportunities of connection emerging in creative and unexpected ways.

I believe this very thing is reflected in the story of the Israelites in the desert in Exodus 16. In their deep perceived dis-connection from God and the life they had known, the Israelites “hit their wall” and behaved from a place of despair instead of hope. Yet, in their despair, God responded with an act of creation and life: daily fill of sweet, flaky micro bread (manna) and quail. Upon seeing it for the first time, the Israelites response was, “What is that? We don’t recognize it? It’s not familiar.” They had a hard time recognizing the connection to life right before them because they had never considered it before. But once they tasted it, they realized it was their connection to life in what they saw only as a life-less desert!

Connection to God and one another is there when we give ourselves permission to “see and taste” it.

Moving into our fall season with one another with the announcement of on-line worship only until October 3rd may feel like being thrust back into the desert again. I understand. But I am committed to working with the council to offer and participate in new ways of inviting us all back into connection over the next five weeks with one another and with God. Although some may feel different or outside your comfort zone, like the Israelite’s, our call in these very strange and challenging times is to see and taste connection in unexpected forms and ways! In doing so, we may then re-discover that connection has always been there waiting for us to participate.

Connection Opportunity September 12th through October 3rd

Sunday ZOOM Coffee Hour Fellowship -11:00 a.m.