



**February 21, 2019**

**Greetings friends,**

**Thankfully February is moving along quickly and as it leaves, I hope it will take this overabundance of snow along with it. Uff-da. I actually like winter, but it's time to be moving on to spring now. Ready to look for robins and lamb-like weather!**

**The Lenten season begins on Wednesday, and while we aren't doing an Ash Wednesday service this year, I hope people will still take the opportunity to do some self-denial work for the 40 days (not counting Sundays) before Easter. It has occurred to me that just when many of us are fading in our best New Year's resolutions work, along comes Lent and an excellent opportunity to recharge self-denial/self-improvement efforts.**

**This suggestion came to me recently and I thought it worthy of passing on:**

### **10 Things to Give Up for Lent (or forever)**

**Guilt –**

I am loved by Jesus and he has forgiven my sins. Today is a new day and the past is behind.

**Fear –**

God is on my side. In him I am more than a conqueror.

**Envy –**

I am blessed. My value is not found in possessions, but in my relationship with my Heavenly Father.

**Impatience –**

God's timing is the perfect timing.

**Bitterness and Resentment –**

The only person I am hurting by holding on to these is myself.

**Comparison –**

I have my own unique contribution to make and there is no one else like me.

**Doubt –**

Believe God has a plan for me that is beyond anything I could imagine.

**Self-pity –**

God comforts me so that I can comfort others with the comfort I myself have received from God.

**Pride –**

Blessed are the humble.

**Worry –**

God is in control and worrying will not help.

**God has so much more in store for each of us than we know. Sadly, habits like the ones listed above can hold us back from walking in the joy and the full destiny of all God has laid out for each of us. Why not use this season of Lent to take hold of these negative habits and try to banish them from our hearts and minds?**

**This Week at Grace**, Pastor is using two scripture passages: Luke 6:27-38 and Psalm 37:1-11 as inspiration for his message "The Life of a Servant: Frangipana". Our children's choir will share the classic "Do Lord" with us – complete with rhythm instruments! Greeters this week are Vivian Whitmore and Caleb Michel. Mike & Christine Marti, Gini Michel and Cheryl Semler will usher. *Gloria Sampson will serve as our liturgist this week.* Worship begins at 9:15 with Coffee Fellowship at 10:15. Sunday school classes meet at 10:30. Please join us!

**The February Brunch Sunday has been postponed until next week (Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>) because of our expected bad weather Saturday into Sunday.** Egg bake and muffins are on the menu. Our February mission focus and the recipient of our free-will offering for the meal is the *Taylor family in African Mission*.

We're looking for volunteers to help serve at the **Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry** next **Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00am-Noon**. Please let Denise Carlson or Cathy Hermanson know if you are available to help that morning.

**The Bethany Life support group for those caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's Disease** will be held on Tuesday, February 26 at 4 p.m. in the Chapel at The Households of Bethany. This group meets monthly on the last Tuesday.

**Mark your calendars! *The Touch of Grace Bell Choir*** will present a concert in our sanctuary on Palm Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm to help raise funds for the refurbishment of their original 3 octave set of bells. Come enjoy a varied selection of songs performed by the choir over many years! Special guest vocalists for the afternoon: *The Brethren!*

**As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:** Orville Carlson (Kurt's dad); Marilyn Taylor (Rhonda Hampton's sister); Denise Cartwright (Rhonda's niece); Kermit Miskell; Lois Johnson; Beverly Tesdall; Tracy Matson; George Sellers; Garry Gerjets; Joan Cooney; Pat Skowronski; Jackie Royer; Cooper Leeman; Taylor family in Africa

## News You Can Use

### **Sunday, February 24**

- 9:15 AM Worship – Children's Choir
- 10:15 AM Brunch – postponed a week
- 10:30 AM Sunday school

### **Monday, February 25**

- 5:30 PM Finance
- 6:30 PM Council

### **Wednesday, February 27**

- 7:00 PM Choir
- 8:00 PM Bells

### **Thursday, February 28**

- 10:30 AM Memorial Committee

### **Sunday, March 3**

- 9:15 AM Worship – Communion, Chancel Choir
- 10:15 AM Brunch - Egg Bake – Taylor Family in Africa
- 10:30 AM Sunday school

Please "like" our Facebook page, [@storycitygrace](#) and receive regular updates on "what's happening" at Grace Church! Our website, [www.grace-umc.com](http://www.grace-umc.com) is full of information and pictures about the life and activities of our Grace Church family. Please check it out!

**Faithfully,  
Cathy**