



CHURCH CHATTER

Monthly Newsletter of Events and Information

Grace: A Four Part Series

Part 1 - What Is Grace?

Ever stop and wonder about grace? I do not know about you but I don't. I pretty much take grace for granted. Surely a gift from God, but like so many gifts they become just another part of my day. I know I have it, I know God gave it to me, I know I can use it, so what else is there to know? Well, I am not sure, that is why I decided to write a column on it. We can learn together. If you come along on this journey, you must agree to share whatever source material you find so I can share that with all our readers. If you share an article or book I will publish the source material such that all the other readers can look for and get the material.

My primary source is *The Book of Discipline United Methodist Church, 2016 For United Methodists*. This book is the rock of our Methodism.

"¶ 101. The General Book of Discipline reflects our Wesleyan way of serving Christ through doctrine and disciplined Christian life." (Part II. General Book of Discipline). It is what I would refer to as a "heavy or thick" read. What I mean by that is that almost every line has information that should be contemplated and digested to its fullest. The concept of grace is one such read.

"Grace pervades our understanding of Christian faith and life. By grace we mean the undeserved, unmerited, and loving action of God in human existence through the ever-present Holy Spirit." (*Book of Discipline*). In the Book of Discipline it is referred to as one several distinct emphasis of John Wesley.

Undeserved: we, as a people do not deserve nor does God somehow owe us this gift. Unmerited: we did not and in fact cannot earn this gift. And it is only because God loves us so much does God give us the gift of grace through the Holy Spirit. And here is an important idea to me. God wants us to have this gift of grace. God wants us to be in a loving relationship, a blessed union. Furthermore, God wants us to want to be in this relationship.

The catch is, and there always seems to be a catch, we are flawed human beings. Our continuing propensity to sin throws up a "wall" between us and God. But even now, God gives us another gift, that of His son, Jesus Christ. And in some old archaic language, "He is the propitiation for our sins." In our modern language, "Jesus is the atonement for our sins."

And so, as a matter of fact, in order to restore God's image in our lives we accept divine grace to renew our fallen nature.

There are three types of grace that God has gifted us. They are prevenient grace, justifying grace, and sanctifying grace. In the months ahead, we will work to better understand all of these types of grace. We will find out what John Wesley had in mind and what it means to us today. In next month's newsletter. we take on a better understanding of prevenient grace.

Frank Remkiewicz
Certified Lay Minister



Sunday - August 7th - 11:30am

Tri Tip Meal
with all the Fixin's

Free will Offering for NEW HVAC units

Delivery Available

NEW WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Beginning August 7, 2022

This Sunday we begin our new worship time and arrangements. These times are exact. Please be sure that each person in each group arrives either before or on time. It is our intent to start our worship exactly on time. The schedule has been prepared so that all can count on the start and conclusion of the worship service.

- 9:00am Open Church Doors
 9:15am Praise Team meets and rehearses
 9:30am Arrival of Ushers, Greeters, Readers, Audio/Video Technicians, Lay Ministers arrive
 9:55am Quiet Time Begins (this is the congregation's time to enter into prayer and meditation in anticipation of the beginning of worship.) At this time, please mute or turn off all cellphones, tablets, and other electronic devices
 10:00am Worship Begins: Praise Team begins procession music, Acolytes, Lay Minister, Pastor procession begins

As a member of any of the above groups and you will be absent from the upcoming week's worship service, please call/or email Frank Remkiewicz by the close of business on the Thursday of the prior week.

If you have any questions please call Frank for clarification or explanation.

Your service to our Lord is of great value. Thank you.

MONDAY on CALL

Certified Lay Minister, Frank Remkiewicz, is now "on call" Mondays so Pastor Jeff can take a day off to "re-energize his batteries". Frank will be available ALL DAY Mondays by phone (209 630-1882) or email (clay.remkiewicz@gmail.com) He can meet at the church or if needed at a home.

CHURCH INFORMATION

Email: cumcOakdaleAdmin@gmail.com

Lay Minister: Frank Remkiewicz
 (209) 630-1882
 clay.remkiewicz@gmail.com

Pastor Jeff Holder:
 (209) 840-7939
 vjHolder@att.net



Am I Equipped. To Do God's Work

In this world when we look for a job or profession how do we proceed? The short answer is we learn what the job is, then we learn how to do the job, and then we go get the job.

In God's world it is different. Let's take Moses as an example. Moses was not well spoken. He was not very eloquent and in some descriptions, Moses stuttered. So one day, Moses is traveling, hears someone call his name and Moses finds himself standing in front of a burning bush. God quickly let Moses know that it is in fact God calling Moses and with a very real purpose in mind. God wants Moses to return to Egypt and lead His people, the Hebrew nation, out of bondage to a land God has set aside for them. Moses, genuine in his response, tells God he is ill-equipped to perform that task. After all, Moses said, I do not have the gifts necessary to accomplish the task you ask of me. And what does God say? Moses, Moses, do not fret. I will give you all the tools necessary to accomplish the task. And so Moses agrees to lead the Hebrews out of slavery into a new world centered on Yhwh.

Kind of a backwards way of becoming a leader of a nation. Certainly not the way we have always approached our work. But it is God's way. God calls, we accept, God equips, and we do the work God has called us to do.

Are you being called by God? Have you heard his voice in your ear? Afraid that God is going to ask you to do something that you think you cannot do? Take a lesson from Samuel. Say, "Here I am Lord!" God will take care of the rest.

Francis L. Remkiewicz

August

Trisha Rushing - 11th - Glen Gorman- 12th
 Karl Inderbitzin 14th - Margie Lucero - 21st
 Kimberly Fulton - 22nd - Brandy Handel 23rd
 Shirley Nickolashin - 26th - Adam Pennell 29th
 Alex & Nick Gorman 29th



RELIABLE WiFi SIGNAL Broader Wi-Fi Access

The week of July 4, 2022 brought an independence of sort for the Oakdale Community United Methodist Church. A strong and stable WiFi system was established. It is now possible to connect to our internet service from anywhere on our campus! Yes indeed, you can connect to the internet in Johnston Hall, in the Church, anywhere. And fear not, the signal will not drop! Aside from all the fun stuff that might bring, we can now run study groups from the Church, listen to important podcasts, watch District and Conference seminars and who knows what else. Have you got an idea on how to use this? Well, come on down!



SERVICES are ONLINE

We continue to record Sunday services and post them to our church's YouTube Channel: CUMC Oakdale & FUMC Riverbank or get

the link on our church website <https://cumcoakdale.org> or the direct YouTube link Pastor Jeff emails out after the service is uploaded.

Need Prayers? Start the Prayer Chain by calling
Pastor Jeff ~ (209) 840-7939

Quote for the month

"Vision without action is a daydream.
Action without vision is a nightmare"

Japanese Proverb

LEADER NEEDED

by Pastor Jeff



We are looking for someone to lead a regular monthly Bible Study. For more information to be that leader OR if you are interested in attending a Bible Study, call Pastor Jeff (209) 840-7939.

HAVC UNIT REPLACEMENT

by Judy Bradley - Trustee

One of the bigger HVAC units on the sanctuary building has now been replaced. It was quite an event bringing in a huge crane to remove the old unit and lift the new one into place on the roof. Two more units on the building roof are on "borrowed time" because they are VERY OLD original units. Units on the other building and classrooms, are also old and will need to be replaced.

Since replacement of the HVAC units is not in the church's general budget, we are having fundraising BBQ events each month to raise the additional funds. Thank-you for any additional funds you can contribute for the HVAC replacement project.

FOR SPACE This area is for anyone with something FOR SALE, an offered SERVICE, or GIVE AWAY. Email the editor a description, photo (if you have one), and contact info.

METHODIST MEN'S GROUP

by Frank Remkiewicz

After a long 2 year pandemic forced hiatus, the Oakdale Community United Methodist Church Men's Group is once again in full swing. I want to first acknowledge and say THANK YOU to JIM AUSTIN for his many years of service in leading this group. Jim has done some outstanding work and it will be difficult to follow in his footsteps, but try I must. Lest you think of Jim only in the past, Jim still is a regularly attending member.

The Men's group will meet regularly the first Saturday of each month. **Our first meeting is scheduled AUGUST 6th @ 9am, @ HUCKLEBERRYS.** located in the small shopping center on the corner of Oak & F Street (Hwy 108).

We need to select some activities to meet the goals we will set at this August meeting.

It has been a very long time since we met in person and we are all out of the habit of attending. Get your calendars out now and reserve that 90 minutes for our Men's Group for every Saturday at 9 am. In order for us to do the good work I know we can do, we need every man to create a force within our community.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Meetings here at the Church

Canoeing Spiritual Group	Mon Zoom Mtg 6:30pm
TOPS Weekly Classes	Mondays - 8:30 am
Scouting Nights	Mondays/Tuesdays - 6pm
Girl Scouts	2nd/4th Wed 7pm
Alanon	Mon 7pm/Thurs noon/Fri 6pm
Grief Group w/Pastor Jeff	Monday 2pm
Addiction Ministry/U-Turn Group	Thursday 7pm
Art Classes w/Carole Earle	Tues/Thurs 9:30am/Tues 2
Oakdale Garden Club	2nd Tues 10am



KID'S ART CLASSES

Instructor - Carol Earle

Beginning in September, art classes for kids 7 and up on Thursdays from 3:30-4:30. Price \$15 per class with some scholarships available. . Contact Carol for more information and/or to register for classes: 209 380-6288

Office Volunteers Needed

Coverage in the church office is needed for 2 hours on the day(s) of the week you can serve. This is a multi person help needed request. Duties include basic filing, answering the phone, special project, etc. Please contact Pastor Jeff.

COMMUNITY EVENT

**Concerts in Dorada Park
Starting Friday July 8th
6:30pm-8:30pm**

The concerts in the park are every Friday evening starting July 8th until the end of August. Each week a different musical group is hosted by the Oakdale Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by businesses in Oakdale for the community to enjoy. Don't be late, as the this is a well attended event. Bring a chair and/or picnic blanket, some food & drink, and a friend.



SEPTEMBER EVENT

Mark your calendar for the FUNDRAISER next month. Another time when you don't have to plan or cook to eat.



NEWSLETTER NEWS

Email: NancyPodolsky@gmail.com

If you have "news" for our newsletter, email me anytime during the month or call me. Also, if you have something for sale, a service to offer or a service you need, let me know and it can be mentioned in the monthly newsletter.

COFFEE HOUR SIGN-UP



COFFEE HOUR

Coffee & treats after church is a great time for friendship/fellowship. **Hostess needed for August 14th and 21st** .. If you or your church committee can be a hostess, please **contact Judy Bradley (209 985-3590)** It is

less effort to prepare food if working together with someone else to share the load. After church coffee time will only happen if there is someone signed up to host/hostess.

PRAISE TEAM MUSIC

by Doug Kolsters



Worship with music! We are always looking for new songs that are spiritual, upbeat gospel, or contemporary. If there is a song you like to sing in church, please let us know. If you would like to sing in the praise team, everyone is welcome to join us. We get together at the church on Wednesdays @ 7pm. Contact Doug Kolsters for more info 209 840-2280.