

GraceNOTES

The official newsletter of Grace United Methodist Church in Arlington, Texas

October 2019

www.Graceumcarlington.org

Never Lose Faith

"When you face difficult times, know that challenges are not sent to destroy you. They're sent to promote, increase and strengthen you." - Unknown.

Entering the month known as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, I want to acknowledge that God is here to help you in the darkest of times. This is about him helping you get through the trials and tribulations life throws at you. I'm not going to lie and say I've never second-guessed God because I have. Growing up the way I have things tend to get hard causing you to blame God for the problems you're facing. But I've come to realize that he's only testing you to see if you will stay on the path created for you or will you stagger and turn away from him.

I've had a hard time believing God was going to fix things for me. Resulting in me feeling as if he was a myth that people talked about to get the kids to be good. But he's not. He's more than what meets the eye but, I never knew because I let the demons in my mind turn my faith into doubt. Even at my age there are some dark moments where you don't know what to do. So, I finally prayed for the better and to see changes. I started seeing him in a new light and finally and truly understanding what he does for us, especially in our time of need. When I first started to lose faith I wasn't in need, I was in pain, I was heartbroken, and everything around me was changing. He didn't give me what I asked for because it would end up paving the way for me to be who and where I am today.

I lost family all in a span of a year and at 6 years old death was just a word. But when that word finally kicked into my mind it meant gone forever. I ended up moving away from home and going to church more, but the word still wasn't getting to me. Until my doubts led me back to Christ and his word. It allowed me to find out that the pain of loss and grief would one day strengthen the person I would grow up to be. I fell from the pedestal that God supported me with at a young age but I learned that he really works for us and not against us. So, I fought to climb my way back to be able to walk this journey with him. As I was writing this while listening to this song called I'll Keep On. And the words this man said really spoke to me and I'll relay them back to you.

"Trust is something I am not accustomed to and I know the Bible says I should always trust in you. I'm just being honest. Please take this outta my hands; I have no control- I am just a person. But thank the Lord that I serve a God that is perfect. My life will always have a hole, if you are not the centerpiece. Take me out of bondage, take all of my pride. If I don't have a savior, I don't have nothing inside." I leave this with you to let you know it's ok to have doubts and lose your way but God is always there to help you find your way back.

Song Recorded By NF.

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Grace UMC Arlington seeks to bring people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ by making disciples through our words and actions in cooperation with God's Grace.

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Sharing News

Our Sunday school lessons have been centered on evangelism, sharing “Good News”. How to share, when to share, best ways to share, etc. Everyone is involved when it comes to the mission of sharing the gospel. We’ve also been reminded to **shake up** what may have settled in us; to stir up the gifts that God has given us. This involves spending time with God. Surrendering, listening, seeking and soaking up the Word so that we are able to do what he’s called us to do.



You may be thinking, “I already spend time with God”. Yes, that is true. However, when our work for God grows, our time spent with God must grow. That work comes in a variety of forms. It could mean taking on a new role, volunteering in a different area, or even in the form of praying i.e., **“that his will be done on earth, as it is in heaven”**.

Challenge yourself this month to add 10 minutes to the time you already spend with God. That may mean getting up a little earlier, staying up a little later, turning off media devices, etc. God hears all of our prayers and he is in control of all of our situations. As we put our trust in him, he will sustain us.

Pam Pinkerton-Whitley, Grace Media

October

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	2 Prayer in sanctuary 5:45 pm Worship mtg 6:15 Bible Class 7 pm	3 Grace Prayer Call 6:45 – 7am 605-313-5111 Access code 663679	4	5 St Andrews Men's Bible and Breakfast 8 am
6	7	8 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	9 Worship Mtg 6:15 pm Bible Class 7pm	10 Grace Prayer Call 6:45 – 7am 605-313-5111 Access code 663679	11	12 College Prep 8-10 am St Andrews Food Bank 8 am
13 Communion Stewards Meeting 11:30 am Pastor @ Camp Wisdom UMC Anniv 3 pm	14 Columbus Day Finance/ Ad Council 7pm	15 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	16 Prayer in sanctuary 5:45 pm Worship mtg 6:15 Outreach 6:15 pm Bible Class 7 pm	17 Grace Prayer Call 6:45 – 7am 605-313-5111 Access code 663679	18	19 Prayer 9 am
20	21	22 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	23 Worship Mtg 6:15 pm Bible Class 7pm	24 Grace Prayer Call 6:45 – 7am 605-313-5111 Access code 663679	25	26 Prayer 9 am UMW 10 AM SPPRC 11AM
27 Info Meeting after Church, Church Change Conference – No SS Joint Youth Rally Fall Festival 5pm at St. Andrews	28	29 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	30 Worship Mtg 6:15 pm Bible Class 7pm	31 Grace Prayer Call 6:45 – 7am 605-313-5111 Access code 663679		

Save the Date!

Joint Church Fall Festival:

Getting to know the community

Sunday, October 27th

