



ENCOUNTERS
with **JESUS**

WELCOME TO GRACE UNION

WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY
SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017

- ➔ Praise & Worship
- ➔ Welcome/Announcements
- ➔ Offering
- ➔ Message: Pastor Bob Poley
- ➔ Prayer



Thank you for joining us today. We're glad you're here. If this is your first time with us, please visit the Welcome table in the front lobby. We have a gift for you and would like to meet you.

NEWS & EVENTS

Breakaway
Kids Camp '17

COMPLETED
1st-6th grade

JUNE 19-23

EARLY BIRD REG.
\$199 BY 5/1

If you would like your child to go to camp this year, registration is open at ilsmonline.org! The camp leaders and their contact information are:

- *Girls completing 1st-2nd grade:* Carrie Clifton - lcclifton@aol.com
- *Girls completing 3rd-6th:* Stacey Bush - newagainexteriors@gmail.com
- *Boys completing 3rd-6th:* Pastor Bob Poley - bobpoley78@gmail.com

THE DEADLINE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EARLY BIRD REGISTRATOIN OF \$199 IS TODAY!! REGISTER ONLINE AT ILSMONLINE.ORG. After today it increases to \$149. Payment is made to Grace Union Church.

Community Outreach

SIGN UP TODAY!

May 20th 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Hamburgers/Hot Dogs, Children's Games, Inflatable, Face Painting

Contact Janet McFarland at 314.448.9691.



Each year we partner with Oasis International to serve the refugee community in St. Louis with a summer outreach! Sign up in the lobby today to bless families in the Bevo Mill area through this event!



We are putting together a group of folks who are interested in volunteering at upcoming Grace Union events to help with everything from setting up chairs, to decorating, putting away tables, cooking/barbecuing and more.

When we have an event such as an all church bbq, food truck night, or even our Easter egg hunt, we would send out an email with descriptions of the event and places we need help. If you are interested or have ideas, email us to let us know. If not, we won't bug you until the next event.

If you would like to be a part of the GU Hospitality Ministry, or have questions about it, talk to Karen today, or email her at karenmomma@live.com.



GU Students are going to camp June 12-16. Visit smymonline.org for more information about the camp. Contact Pastor Patrick Daniels today at patrickdaniels1137@gmail.com

OUR MISSION

We are helping people to live in union with Christ by grace.

- Union with God through a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Union with Others through investing in people through Biblical community.
- Union with Ourselves with a wholeness found in a new identity in Christ.
- Union with our Broken World by being an agent of change in our society by caring for and serving those who are poor, oppressed or marginalized.

We value sharing the love, life and power of God to our communities and world, joining Christ in his mission to rescue fallen humanity.

WAYS TO CONNECT



For any special needs, prayer partners are available after service. You can also email gucprayer@gmail.com.

WAYS TO GIVE



ENVELOPE

Offering or Giving Box



TEXT TO GIVE

Text GIVE to 314.888.5188



ONLINE

graceunionstl.org

MAILING ADDRESS

3900 Union Road, St. Louis, MO 63125

Visit us online to learn more about Grace Union at graceunionstl.org.

All of our message recordings can also be found on our website.



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ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

PART 2: LED VS DRIVEN

I. Problem: Life is full of Currents that can cause people to drift off Target.

- *Quote:* While talking about what we risk with a life of prayerlessness, Bishop Percival said we risk a life “of drifting with any currents that happen to prevail.”
- Life is full of fast moving, acute issues that can quickly move your life from one place to very different place.
- Nobody plans to loose everything to these currents.
- We flirt with trouble and eventually our anchor fails.
- There also slow and subtle currents that can drive us off target.
- It is possible to call ourselves Christians and yet be driven by society into ways of thinking and living that make us “the center of our own universe.”
- Following Jesus is by nature a life of being Led. So how can the Christian be sure they are being led by God and avoid being driven by the currents that surround?

II. Jesus modeled Patterns of Prayer that enable us to be Led rather than Driven.

Mark 1: 35-38

- 35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.
- 36 Simon and his companions went to look for him,
- 37 and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you.”
- 38 Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else – to the nearby villages – so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.”

- Jesus made time for his personal pattern of private prayer.
- This story shows us the impact of the prayer time.

- **Jesus came away from his time of prayer with a renewed sense of Clarity about what he was there for.**
- **Clarity is never easy when we are in the middle of life. That is why Jesus escaped into prayer. That is why we should as well.**
- Prayer was also the solution Jesus gave for the fast current that tries to sweep us away.

Mark 14:32-38

- 32 They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray."
- 33 He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled.
- 34 "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."
- 35 Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him.
- 36 "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."
- 37 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour?"
- 38 **Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."**

- **The ability to assert your spirit above your desires is born in prayer.**

II. Question: What does it look like to implement the kind of prayer life that will enable us to escape the current?

- You escape currents in life the same way you would in a boat.
 - With a PRIVATE D.O.C. We PRIVATELY pray daily, occasionally, and constantly.
- **PRIVATE**
 - When implementing prayer in your life you will need to graduate from Rehearsed public prayers to Personal and Private times of prayer.
 - Carve out 15 private minutes at the start of your day to Talk to and Listen to God.

- **D: Daily times of Prayer**

- So what do I actually do in my prayer time?
- Ask for what you need to ask for.
- Share what is going on in your mind and life.
- As you describe and ponder your life situations daily before God in prayer, you will see them from a different perspective in HIS PRESENCE, outside the current.

- **O: Occasional times of Prayer**

- **We need extended seasons of prayer Occasionally in life.**

- **C: Constant prayer**

- We need to learn to be in Constant Prayer.
- To be in constant prayer is more about hearing than about saying.

Will you escape the currents that try to drive us?

Will you cultivate a life of prayer through which you can be LED by God to leave a legacy?

Jesus knew there was a reason why he came. Through prayer, he stayed linked to that reason rather than being swept up in the current of the world around him.

Thank you for being with us today. This, and all of our messages, can be found on our website, graceunionstl.org.

THIS WEEK

Visit us online for information about these events and more.
graceunionsil.org or facebook.com/graceunionsil

MONDAY (5/1)

Alcoholics Anonymous (GU Family Room) - 7 pm
(Led by Jeff Hall - 314.620.6635)

TUESDAY (5/2)

WEDNESDAY (5/3)

Prayer Group (Main Auditorium) - 5 pm
GU Students (Youth Auditorium) - 6:30 pm

Elementary Book Club (Café) - 6 pm
(Carrie Clifton - 314.280.3459)

THURSDAY (5/4)

FRIDAY (5/5)

SATURDAY (5/6)

SUNDAY (5/7)

GU Small Groups

M&M Village Women's Group (Conf. Room B) - 9 am
Men Alive in Christ (Conf. Room C) - 9 am

Adult/Student Service (Main Aud.) - 10 am
GU Kids (Early Childhood-Elementary) - 10 am

SAVE THE DATES

5/14 - Mother's Day

6/12-16 - Youth Camp

5/20 - Oasi Int'l BBQ Outreach

6/19-20 - Kids Camp

OUR STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

OFFICE: 314.892.2757

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