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WELCOME TO GRACE UNION

WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY
SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2017

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



Thank you for joining us today! If this is your first time with us, please stop by the Welcome table in the lobby for a free gift. We'd love to meet you.

NEWS & EVENTS



This is a special week of prayer and fasting for Grace Union. The church will be open Mon-Sat, 11a-1p and 4-6p. We will have prayer lists available of needs within the church. If you have a need you would like added, please email guctrayer@gmail.com.



Our Labor Day Cookout is NEXT SUNDAY! We need A LOT of volunteers to make this event a success, including set-up, clean-up, food prep, activity monitors, and more. Invite your friends and neighbors. **PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE LOBBY TODAY!**

***GU STUDENTS will also be having a CAR SMASH FUNDRAISER during the picnic for their trip to youth convention. \$20 for the first cracks at the car, then \$10.**

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JINGLE BELL BEACH

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child dedication

Sunday, September 17

Contact Crystal Myers at crystaldawnmyers@gmail.com.

We will be having a baby and child dedication on Sunday, September 17th. If you are interested in having your child dedicated, please contact Crystal Myers by **September 10th**. This dedication is:

- A time for Parents to make a public commitment to God to raise their children in His ways.
- A time for Grace Union Church to join with the parents in prayers for and celebration of these children.

water BAPTISM

09.24.17

Contact Pastor Bob at
bobpoley78@gmail.com



School Supplies
August



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.

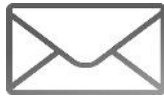
We value sharing the love, life and power of God to our communities and world, joining Christ in his mission to rescue fallen humanity.

WAYS TO CONNECT



For any special needs, please email our Prayer Team at 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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PRAYER

Carving out spaces in your life, and allowing God to fill them with his presence.

I. Deepening Prayer is Internally Focused, Resting Prayer.

- The deeper I dig the holes, and the more holes I dig, the more of his presence my life will contain.

2 Timothy 2:4

No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.

- Paul was teaching Timothy that a core skill he needed to develop was to LIVE within the Kingdom of God even though he EXISTED in the Kingdom of the World.

II. Continual Prayer: Spontaneous, Interspersed Prayers.

- Sometimes we have trouble drawing into spontaneous prayer because we cannot think of something we want to ask for. But this type of prayer is more about spending a moment soaking in the Atmosphere of his Presence than about getting anything from him.
- These kinds of prayers don't always feel significant in the moment, but the impact is Cumulative.
- These consistently interspersed momentary connections with God will keep the power and presence of the Holy Spirit from Drying up in your life.

III. Another form of Deepening Prayer: Praying in the Spirit.

Ephesians 6:18

Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

- This scripture is talking about 2 things:
 - Spirit led prayers.
 - Spirit uttered prayers.

A. Spirit Led Prayer

- IMAGINE: You have a CB Radio and on some frequency out there, there is an open line of communication between the Holy Spirit and God the Father.
 - Praying in the spirit is about quieting background static and tuning in to find the station.
 - It is sensing the Focus of the Holy Spirit as he communicates with God the Father for situations around you.
 - Then you add your voice to that of the Spirit in Petitioning the Father. In doing so you are praying the perfect will and wisdom of God.

B. Spirit Uttered Prayer

- The Holy Spirit will also pray through us in words and groans that we don't understand.

Romans 8:26-27

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

1 Corinthians 14:2,4

2 For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed no one understands them, but they utter mysteries by the Spirit

4 Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church.

- The mystery as Paul explains it:
 - The Holy Spirit utters prayers and mysteries through people in languages and sounds they don't comprehend.
 - The act of speaking or praying in Tongues is not aimed at people, but at God himself.

C. With either method, the powerful and mysterious thing is that we don't understand what we are communicating.

- But if we are willing to trust God in things that we don't fully understand, we can PRAY THE PERFECT WILL AND DESIRE OF GOD IN EVERY SITUATION.

IV. Final Form of Deepening Prayer: Meditating on God's Word.

Psalm 1:1-3

- 1 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,
- 2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.
- 3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.

A. Christian meditation is fundamentally different than Eastern Meditation.

- Christian meditation is deliberately filling your mind and heart with something.
- Eastern meditation is emptying your mind.
 - The goal of Christian meditation is further Attachment.
 - The goal of Eastern Meditation is detachment.

B. Example of a Good Scripture to Meditate on:

Psalm 18:1-3

- 1 I love you, Lord, my strength.
- 2 The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
- 3 I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I have been saved from my enemies.

V. Closing: A key theological principle of Christianity is that God does not dwell in temples, churches, or architecture.

- WE ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- How many pools will you dig out? How deeply will you dig them?

THIS WEEK

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

MONDAY (8/28)

PRAYER (Main Auditorium) - 11 am-1 pm; 4-6 pm
Alcoholics Anonymous (GU Family Room) - 7 pm
(Led by Jeff Hall - 314.620.6635)

TUESDAY (8/29)

PRAYER (Main Auditorium) - 11 am-1 pm; 4-6 pm

WEDNESDAY (8/30)

PRAYER (Main Auditorium) - 11 am-1 pm; 4-6 pm
GU Students (Youth Auditorium) - 6:30 pm

THURSDAY (8/31)

PRAYER (Main Auditorium) - 11 am-1 pm; 4-6 pm

FRIDAY (9/1)

PRAYER (Main Auditorium) - 11 am-1 pm; 4-6 pm

SATURDAY (9/2)

PRAYER (Main Auditorium) - 11 am-1 pm

SUNDAY (9/3)

GU Small Groups - 9 am

Women's Group (Conf. Room B)

Men's Group (Conf. Room C)

Adults/Students Service (Main Aud.) - 10 am
GU Kids (Early Childhood-Elementary) - 10 am

SAVE THE DATES

9/13 - Fall Small Groups Begin

9/17 - Child Dedication

9/24 - Water Baptisms

9/27 - Youth Prayer Rally

9/29 - Food Truck/Movie Night

10/6-7 - Youth Lock-in

OUR STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

OFFICE: 314.892.2757

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- **Rev. Bob Poley, Lead Pastor**
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