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WELCOME TO GRACE UNION

WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 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

JOIN US AFTER SERVICE FOR OUR
LABOR DAY PICNIC ON THE LAWN!

* GU STUDENTS are having a CAR SMASH FUNDRAISER to help with their trip to youth convention. \$20 for the first cracks at the car, then \$10.

GU SMALL GROUPS

MOTHER'S MILK MINISTRY - Tuesday, 9/5

Mother's Milk Ministry is a support group for moms with babies to connect and support each other. The group meets once a month and is led by Melanie Terry, a Certified Lactation Consultant. The next meeting is THIS Tuesday, at 10 am. in the GU Kids area.



The first practice for the Elementary Christmas play is Sunday, September 10th right after service. Lunch will be provided. Parents, look for an email coming soon with more details.

child dedication

Sunday, September 17

Contact Crystal Myers at crystal dawnmyers@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

Water Baptism is a public declaration of ones' faith and newness of life in Christ. If you would like to take this important step of faith, or have any questions, please see or contact Pastor Bob at bobpoley78@gmail.com.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We are quickly approaching packing season. September's item of the month is GAMES! In addition, please consider donating toiletries, school supplies, and toys. We can also use flip flops, sunglasses, clothes, and underwear. If you have any questions please contact Christine Pahner at crafftcrispy@yahoo.com or 203.770.4305.



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.

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PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

"This, then, is how you should pray: "'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'"

- It is interesting that Jesus used the word debt in reference to our sin.
- The Parable of The Unmerciful Servant:
 - The precise amount of the debt is not the point. The point was that this person owed a debt he could never repay.
 - At a day-laborer's wage, it would take about 2,500 LIFETIMES to work off that debt.
 - But the King took pity and CANCELED THE DEBT COMPLETELY freeing the man.

I. Jesus assumed that we would sin and made it clear that we have no hope of settling our own account.

- A. God recognized ahead of time the full degree of our brokenness.
- As people, we tend to be unrealistic about how broken we actually are.
 - A growing realization of our own brokenness makes us feel insecure in the forgiveness God has given us.

- B. God knew the depths of your debt; and he was fully aware of your inability to make up for what you have done.

II. God is able to forgive our sin debt because Jesus paid it in our place.

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

- A. When we turn away from our sin and put our faith in Jesus his payment is credited to our account and we are made right with God.

III. Being reminded of the Forgiveness poured freely into our messed up life sets us free to live differently.

- A. The act of "asking for forgiveness" is not what brings your forgiveness.

- **Your sins past, present, and future were forgiven in full the moment you put your faith in Jesus.**

- B. Why did Jesus teach us to pray "forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors?"

- **We need to daily be reminded in prayer of our brokenness, God's Holiness, and what Jesus did to bridge the gap between the two.**

- C. We should daily stop to re-examine and re-experience, in our hearts and minds, the substitutionary death of Jesus for us.

- Without this kind of daily reminder we can become casual or calloused to sin in our lives and then destructive things take root.

- D. **We can forget how sinful we are and then try to hold other people to standards we cannot live out.**

- When we are realistic about how messed up we are, and how much we depend on God's mercy, forgiveness of other people becomes easier.

- That is why this particular section of prayer is so crucial.

- God forgives you without you "making up for all you have done" and he expects you to offer forgiveness to others **on the same terms it was offered to you.**

- At any point that we withhold forgiveness of someone else, **we become The Unmerciful Servant.**

IV. Then Jesus' focus shifted from Sins already committed, to how we face Temptation going forward.

"Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one."

- A. One reason we don't focus on avoiding sin is that we don't understand what is really going on.
 - There is a sinister plot tailor made for us.
 - Sin is never a "one off" thing; there is a long term plan in place.
 - This process is planned by satan to move you, step by step toward destruction.

John 10:10

The enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy, but I have come that you would have life and life more abundantly.

- B. Temptation is our enemy laying out a divergent path in front of you.
- C. What we are actually praying for is the Holy Spirit to illuminate the path before us, and to walk with us, through the day calling out trouble.
- D. We need the insight of the Holy Spirit to spot temptation and trouble before it culminates into the destruction our enemy has planned.
- E. Prayers like this one help us to walk in-sync with God, he is then able to help us avoid the plots and pestilence of the evil one.

Thank you for being here today. You can find all of the "Prayer" series notes & recordings on our website, www.graceunionstl.org.

THIS WEEK

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

MONDAY (9/4)

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

TUESDAY (9/5)

WEDNESDAY (9/6)

Drive-by-Prayer (Main Aud.) - 4-6:30 pm
GU Students (Youth Auditorium) - 6:30 pm

THURSDAY (9/7)

FRIDAY (9/8)

SATURDAY (9/9)

SUNDAY (9/10)

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

CHRISTMAS PLAY PRACTICE - 11:30 am

SAVE THE DATES

9/17 - Child Dedication

9/20 - Fall Small Groups Begin

9/24 - Water Baptisms

9/27 - Youth Prayer Rally

9/29 - Food Truck/Movie Night

10/6-7 - Youth Lock-in

10/28 - Trunk or Treat

OUR STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

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