

Welcome
to



GraceUnion
CHURCH

Encountering Grace through Jesus, right where we are
Being moved by Grace toward all God has for us.

3900 Union Rd, St. Louis, MO 63125 | 314.892.2757 | graceunionstl.org

WELCOME TO GRACE UNION

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

GU SPOTLIGHT

Find out more about these events at graceunionstl.org.



Rehearsals are held every Sunday after service (11:30-1). Light snacks provided. Contact Karen with any questions at karenmomma@live.com. The performance is Sunday, 12/10.



Each year Grace Union takes part in Operation Christmas Child, packing and sending gifts to children all over the world. Pick up a shoe box in the lobby today! We'll be hosting a packing party **TONIGHT at 5pm. Dinner will be provided.** Contact Christine Pahner at craftycrispy@yahoo.com.

NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK November 13-20

In addition to packing boxes, Grace Union also serves as a local Relay/Collection center for our area. The hours needed for volunteers during National Collection Week are: M-F, 3-7:30 pm; Sat/Sun, 12-4 pm; Mon, 10am-12pm. That Sunday and Monday we need people who can lift 30-50lbs. Lunch will be provided for those on those days. Contact Dale Dean if you can help! daleandkirstie@att.net

GU Thanksgiving Dinner

The Cliftons will be hosting Thanksgiving here in the Family Room. This event is for those who don't have a traditional family dinner planned, don't have a place to go to celebrate, and single parents. We'd love to celebrate with you! **Sign up today to bring a dish to share.** Contact Carrie at 314.280.3459 or lclifton@aol.com.

WAYS TO CONNECT



SUNDAYS @ 10AM
Nursery—Elementary

WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30PM
Nursery | Awana (PreK-Elem)



WEDNESDAYS (Gr 6-12) @ 6:30PM
SUNDAYS (Middle School) @ 10:15

SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS

Women's Group @ 9am
Men's Group @ 9am

WEDNESDAYS

Drive-by-Prayer @ 4pm
GU Small Groups @ 6:30pm
Ladies Bible Study
Adult Bible Study
Men's Group Study

CONNECTION CARD

If you're new to GU, want prayer, or need to update your info, fill out a Connection Card, and put it in the Offering or the Giving Box in the lobby.

STAY CONNECTED



@graceunionstl | #graceunionstl

LISTEN ONLINE



ONLINE AUDIO
graceunionstl.org/multimedia

WAYS TO GIVE



ENVELOPE
Offering/Giving Box



TEXT TO GIVE
314.888.5188



ONLINE
graceunionstl.org



OVERFLOW (PART 1): *Closed Loop vs. Open Loop Living*

The Pharisees: They thought that their actions were justified by the sin of the people they were dealing with.

Luke 6:45 (NLT) – A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.

- It is easier to blame others for pulling things out of us, but nothing can be pulled out that is not first within.

Luke 6:27–36

27 "But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. 28 Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. 30 Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. 31 Do to others as you would like them to do to you. 32 "If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! 33 And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! 34 And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return. 35 "Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. 36 You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.

- Jesus set an external standard of our treatment of others that is not contingent.
- *Reciprocity*: The practice of exchanging things with others for mutual benefit.

I. This world basically functions on Reciprocity, which is a Closed Loop System.

- Reciprocity quickly devolves into resentment, divisiveness, hatred, and violence.
- If you are just "as good as the next guy" then you probably have circles of harmony and generally admirable behavior in some pockets of your life; and simultaneously you have pockets of the opposite.

- And it is all justified by what you feel those people DESERVE.

II. But Jesus demands that we act as Children of God.

vs. 35 "Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked.

- God's expectation of his children is that we would "do to and for others what we would like done to and for us."
- **Why does this kind of living make us nervous?**
 - Consistently giving without getting back is exhausting, insulting, and frustrating.

III. God's Promise: Living as Children of God is an Open Loop System, and our reward comes from Him rather than people.

Luke 6:35,37-38

35 "Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. **Then your reward FROM HEAVEN will be very great,**
37 "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. 38 **Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.**

- If you act as a Child of God, your reward comes FROM HEAVEN.
- Now we are not just all trading the same stuff back and forth, now we are creating wealth.
 - Relational wealth - Emotional wealth - Wealth wealth
- The manner in which we give determines the manner in which God gives to us.
- You can enrich all those around you while you yourself grow richer.
- The choice is ours and it is made countless times a day in benign interactions.

SAVE THE DATES



11/15	End Fall Small Group Semester
11/17-18	District Youth Convention
11/23	GU Thanksgiving Dinner
11/26	Water Baptisms
12/1	Leadership Party Night
12/2,9	Kids Christmas Dress Rehearsals
12/3	Ladies' Christmas Party
12/10	Children's Christmas Performance
12/24	Christmas Eve Services (3 & 5pm)

OUR STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

OFFICE: 314.892.2757

PRAYER: GUCPRAYER@GMAIL.COM

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