

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 | [graceunionstl.org](http://graceunionstl.org)  
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# WELCOME TO GRACE UNION

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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](http://graceunionstl.org).*

### **THIS WEEK AT GU**

#### **FOOD ADDICTS ANONYMOUS - Monday, 6:30 p.m.**

Maureen Chirco leads the South County Food Addicts group here at GU. All are welcome. You can contact Maureen at 314.378.5259. Also see [foodaddicts.org](http://foodaddicts.org).

#### **KEENAGERS (50+) - Thursday, 11:30 a.m.**

If you are 50 or older, please join the Keenagers small group this in the Cafe area. Come enjoy a time of fellowship, good food, devotions and games. Contact Jean Myers at 636.296.4643.

#### **MEN'S BREAKFAST - Saturday, 8 a.m.**

All men are invited to come out to breakfast once a month at various St. Louis area restaurants. This Saturday will be at Uncle Bill's Pancake & Dinner House (3427 S. Kingshighway). Contact Glenn Adams at [glennmadams81@gmail.com](mailto:glennmadams81@gmail.com).

### **REGIONAL HOUSE PARTIES**

We've been praying and pursuing, and now GUC is partying! Regional house parties are under way. The next party is **Friday, March 23rd, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Chris & Shelly Kilburn** (3020 Kreindheder Ct. 63125). This party is for you if you live in the following zip codes: 63125, 63111, 62236, 62206.



We are so excited to be holding TWO Egg Hunts for the kids after each service this Easter! **That means we need of A LOT of small/individually-wrapped candy.** There will be a box by the Kids Check-in Area for donations. Thank you!

# WAYS TO CONNECT



**SUNDAYS @ 10AM**  
**WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30PM**  
Nursery—Elementary



**PRAYER NEEDS**  
Email: [gucprayer@gmail.com](mailto:gucprayer@gmail.com)



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



**SUNDAYS @ 9AM**  
Women's Group (Conf. Room B)  
Men's Group (Conf. Room A)

**WEDNESDAY**  
**NIGHT**  
**EXPERIENCE**  
**6:30PM**

## **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](http://graceunionstl.org/multimedia)

## **WAYS TO GIVE**



**ENVELOPE**  
Offering/Giving Box



**TEXT TO GIVE**  
314.888.5188



**ONLINE**  
[graceunionstl.org](http://graceunionstl.org)

# PRAYPURSUEPARTY



# IN THE LIGHT: *The Grey Box*

**1 John 1:5, 6** – God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live in the truth.

**God is to the soul, what the sun is to physical existence.**

- You were built with the capacity to perceive and understand the spiritual world. But God is the Illuminating factor.

**2 Facts:**

- Interaction with other people is unavoidable.
- Interacting with other people invariably presents challenges.

**1 John 2:9-11** – 9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. 10 Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. 11 But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

“Fictitious sanctity dazzles the eye of almost all men, while love is neglected or at least driven into the farthest corner.” –John Calvin

**I. Point: Love for our Fellow man is evidence that we are walking in Jesus' light; but hate opens a trap door plunging us into darkness.**

- A. There will be times when other people will be a source of inspiration to you, but there will also be lots of times when people will be trap doors threatening to redirect you.
- Something they do or say, or some way that they are; will tempt you to exclude them from the requirement to “LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR AS WE LOVE OURSELVES.”

**II. Point : This Scripture only describes 2 choices: Love or Hate.**

- A. William Barclay says, “The first thing you notice is John’s stark terms, it is either love or hate. There are no intermediate positions from John’s perspective.”
- B. The distinction between the grey box and black box exists only in our estimation.

**1 John 3:16** – This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

- C. There is “Jesus-like” Interaction (called love), and then there is everything else. We are commanded to Love.

### III. The failure to love has a Blinding and a Bleeding Through Effect.

- A. If Jesus moves in the direction of Loving people whether they deserve it or not, then to keep up with him and stay in his light we must do the same.
- B. You may not like it and you may not think it is fair for him to expect that of you, **but it isn't fair that HE GIVES IT TO YOU EITHER.**

*Romans 6:23* – the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus.

- It's not fair, it's grace.
- C. If we fail to love the way he loves, it creates distance between us and the light and darkness creeps back into our life.
  - Our lack of love puts us far enough from Jesus that shadows kick in and our spiritual vision is distorted by the failing light.
- D. The fact that we think such refusal to distribute Grace is compatible with Life in Jesus, illustrates the darkness we are in. Because we don't see the ludicrous nature of the hypocrisy we are living out.

*1 John 2:11* – But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness they do not know where they are going because the **darkness** has blinded them.

- E. The distortion in your spiritual perceptiveness will not remain isolated in this one particular relationship or area of your life.
  - It causes us to have to experience bad things God intended us to avoid.
  - It causes us to lack the perception to recognize good things around us that he intended us to be a part of.

### IV. A recognition of our own sinfulness has to come first, because it paves the way for us to be able to love.

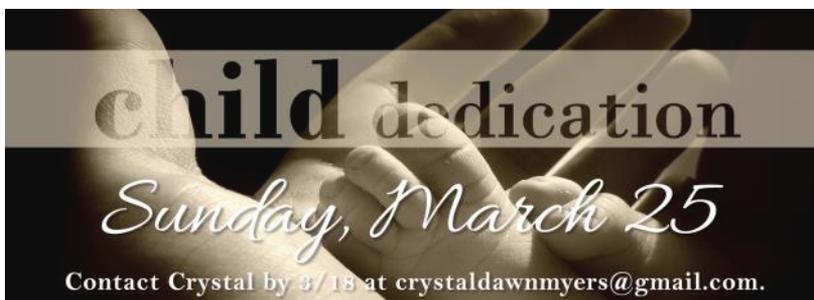
- A. It starts with recognizing how badly and regularly I fail Jesus, and all the ways I neglect him and yet expect his consistent care.
- B. The flow of God's love into my life is more than enough to fill all of the relational streams coming out of my life.
- C. The result is more than just peace, harmony, or friendship. The result is **walking in the Light.**

"God loves his enemies enough to die for them, so do you when you have his nature unencumbered with depravity." –William Godbey

# SAVE THE DATES



3/17	STL Deaf Church Outreach
3/18	STL Deaf Church 1st Service
3/19	Food Addicts Anonymous
3/20	Preschool Party
3/23	House Party - Kilburns
3/25	Child Dedications
4/1	Easter Sunday & Egg Hunt
4/13,14	Ignite Youth Retreat & Stronger Men's Conference
5/4	Food Truck/Movie Night



**child dedication**  
*Sunday, March 25*  
Contact Crystal by 3/18 at [crystaldawnmyers@gmail.com](mailto:crystaldawnmyers@gmail.com).



**STRONGER**  
MEN'S CONFERENCE 2018  
APRIL 13-14, 2018

COST  
\$ 155

**REGISTER BY APRIL 1**

## OUR STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

OFFICE: 314.892.2757

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- **Rev. Jason Myers, Associate Pastor**  
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