

Welcome

to



GraceUnion
CHURCH

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

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WELCOME TO GRACE UNION

Thank you for joining us today! If it's 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 News & Events

MEN'S DINNER - Thursday, March 28

All men are invited to Cracker Barrel on the 28th at 6 p.m. to enjoy good food and fellowship with other GUC men. Contact Dale Dean at daleandkirstie@att.net.

CPR TRAINING - March 30 | 9a-12p | Cost \$45

GU will be hosting a CPR Certification training that will include adult, child & infant CPR and first aid. Children 6th grade and up may observe the first aid portion, but the training is for 18+. You can sign up in the lobby today, and contact Mindy Adams with questions at mindyadams82@gmail.com. **There are 5 spots left.**

CHILD DEDICATION - Sunday, March 31

We will be having a Child Dedication Sunday, March 31. This is a time for parents to make a public commitment to God to raise their children in His ways; and a time for Grace Union Church to join with the parents in prayers for and celebration of these children. If you would like your child to be dedicated, please contact Crystal Myers by March 24 at crystal dawnmyers@gmail.com.

EASTER EGG COLLECTION

Our GU Easter celebration is approaching!! This year we are asking for donations of plastic eggs that are stuffed with **PRE-PACKAGED candy. Candy must be in it's own package.** We'll be having two egg hunts again, so we appreciate your donations! Donation boxes are located in the foyer and kids check-in area.

STRONGER MEN'S CONFERENCE - April 26-27

All men are invited to this annual conference at JQH Arena in Springfield, MO. Featuring high-energy worship and awesome entertainment, this action-packed conference will be an unforgettable experience! Past events have included NFL Superstar Panels, Monster Trucks, and MMA Fights. The cost is \$180 and is due at registration (includes conference and hotel). Sign up starting **TODAY** in the lobby. Contact Jason with any questions at jscott5157@gmail.com. You can also see strongermen.org for more information about the conference.

REGIONAL PARTIES



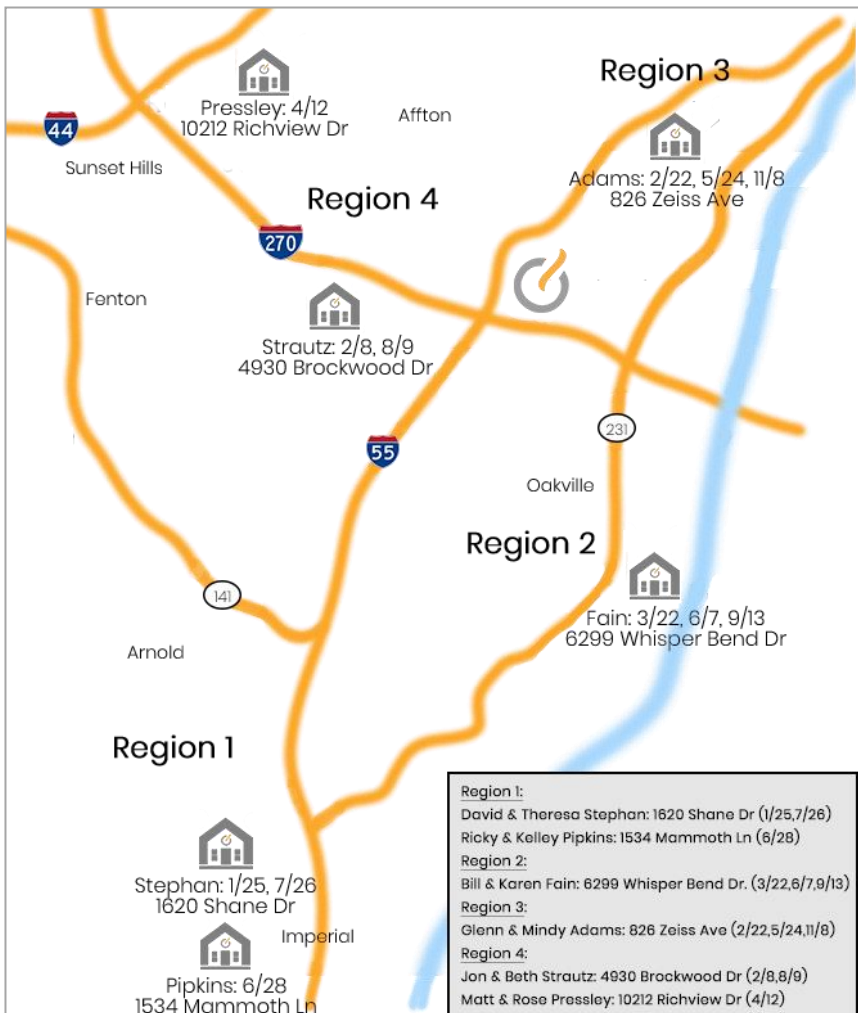
Get to know your GU neighbors with our Regional House Parties! See the map and schedule below to find your Region, host addresses and 2019 dates. Parties begin at 6:30 p.m. Bring a snack to share if able. If not, that's ok. Don't let that stop you from coming!

UPCOMING PARTIES:

Mar 22: Region 2 - Bill & Karen Fain

Apr 12: Region 4 - Matt & Rose Pressley

May 24: Region 3 - Glenn & Mindy Adams



Infrastructure of Blessing: Being the Recipient

Luke 5:17-25

- 17 One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick.
- 18 Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus.
- 19 When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.
- 20 When Jesus saw **their faith**, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."
- 21 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? **Who can forgive sins but God alone?**"
- 22 Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?"
- 23 Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?"
- 24 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."
- 25 Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God.

I. **Nobody wants to be the Person on the Mat, needing help.**

- A. We tend to think about life in stark terms: Winners and Losers, Happy or Miserable, Good or Bad; but reality is more nuanced.

II. **Question: How do we live in such a way that we will have the Infrastructure in place, to carry us to Jesus, when we need it?**

- A. "Carrying Friendships" need to be built ahead of the need.
- B. In the Sunny Days of life we need to Proactively build the Friendship Infrastructure needed for the Stormy Days.

III. **How do we receive Blessing from Friendship Infrastructure once it is created?**

- A. Humility and Receptivity are required before we can receive blessing through Friendship.

2 Corinthians 4:6-7 - 6 For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

- B. **Sometimes, that is not just your friend saying that, or asking that question; sometimes it is Jesus.**

James 1:19 tells us to QUICK TO LISTEN AND SLOW TO SPEAK.

- C. Receptivity comes into reach when we recognize who may actually be at work through our friends.

Verse 20 - When Jesus saw **their faith**, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven.

- D. Sometimes the answer to your problem has nothing to do with you.

- E. Receptive Humility will enable us to see the Infinite disguised in the Finite, as it stands next to us.

IV. Question: But what if my friends are dumb?

- A. There are 2 answers to this:

1. Proactively build friendships with Wise and Godly People.

Proverbs 13:20 - Walk with the wise and become wise; for a friend of fools suffers harm

2. Use discernment.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 - Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt 21 but test them all; hold on to what is good, 22 reject every kind of evil.

- B. When a friend says something that causes you to think, or challenges you to look at something in your life (steps of discernment):

1. **First compare the idea to what we know about Jesus from the Bible.**
2. **Next, pray.**
3. **Finally, is it wise?**

Recognizing and Responding to God's goodness, Channeled through Friendships, can unlock Phenomenal Growth, Healing, and Transformation for us.

2019 PRAY PURSUE PARTY

MARCH

20 Wednesday Night Experience
20 GUSstudents Event Night
22 Regional House Party (Fain)
24 Missions Sunday
28 Men's Dinner - Cracker Barrel
31 Child Dedication
31 21 DAYS OF PRAYER BEGINS
18,25 Food Addicts Anonymous

APRIL

5 Leadership Appreciation Night
7 Healthcare Team Meeting
12 Regional House Party (Pressley)
17 Night of Worship
17 GUSstudents Event Night
21 EASTER SUNDAY (8:30a, 11a)
26 Men's Conference Weekend
1,8,15,22,29 Food Addicts Anonymous

* See graceunionstl.org or [Facebook.com/graceunionstl](https://www.facebook.com/graceunionstl) for details about these and other GU Events! *

WAYS TO CONNECT



SUNDAYS @ 10AM
Nursery-Elementary



PRAYER NEEDS
Email: gucprayer@gmail.com



SUNDAYS @ 9AM
Adults Group



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



6:30pm
Nursery Care | PreK/K Awana | Elementary Awana
Adult Service (Main Auditorium)

WAYS TO GIVE



ENVELOPE
Offering/Giving Box



TEXT TO GIVE
314.888.5188
Tithe-Missions-Hub



ONLINE
graceunionstl.org

OUR STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

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