

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 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 is 1 spot 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 **TODAY** or email her at crystaldawnmyers@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 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



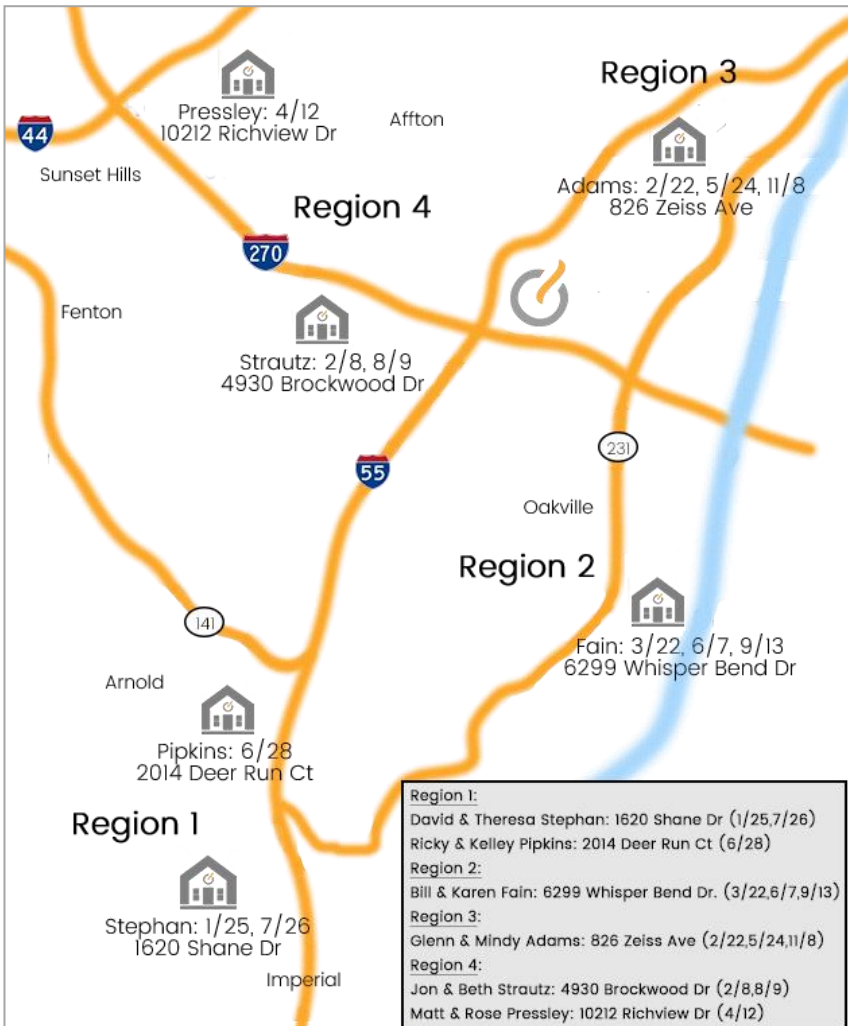
Get to know your GU neighbors with our Regional House Parties! See the map and schedule below to find your Region, host addresses and 2019 dates. Parties begin at 6:30 p.m. Bring a snack to share if able. If not, that's ok. Don't let that stop you from coming!

UPCOMING PARTIES:

Apr 12: Region 4 - Matt & Rose Pressley

May 24: Region 3 - Glenn & Mindy Adams

Jun 7: Region 2 - Bill & Karen Fain



Infrastructure of Blessing: Being a Mat Carrier

Luke 5:17-26

- 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.
- 26 **Everyone was amazed** and gave praise to God. They were **filled with awe** and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

I. What must it have been like to be one of those 4 friends?

- A. Imagine reaching the end of all things and finding a long list of the people and the ways that you carried their mats.

II. Build friendships based on Generosity and Compassion.

1 Corinthians 10:24 - No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.

III. While holding on to others, we need to make steps toward Jesus.

Hebrews 10:22-25

22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

- A. **You can't help others move toward Jesus if you aren't moving toward him.**
- B. As we are growing we ask the question: How can what God is doing in me benefit others?
- According to the writer it starts simply with being with people.
 - The other thing specifically mentioned is Encouragement.
- C. Friendship and closeness are needed for us to have clarity about what merits encouragement in others.
- That same closeness is what makes our Encouragement valuable to people.

IV. When you are Faithful as an Encourager people allow you to be a Carrier.

Galatians 6:2 - Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

- A. When you have been allowed to see a burden, recognize the sacred opportunity being extended.

V. The final key to being a Mat Carrier is having enough Confidence IN GOD for you to act.

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.

- A. When we have a proper awe and reverence for what resides in us, we will engage with hurting people, and try to let it out.

Practical Tips:

- Displays of Love and Friendship go a long way.
- Ask questions, then Ask Questions, then Ask more questions, and Pray.
- Eventually the Holy Spirit will give you a thought: something to say or do.
- When you do it, remember you are just picking up and carrying. Jesus does the rest.

2019

PRAYPURSUEPARTY

MARCH

- 25 Food Addicts Anonymous
- 27 Wednesday Night Experience
- 28 Men's Dinner - Cracker Barrel
- 31 Child Dedication
- 31 "Brand New" Series
- 21 DAYS OF PRAYER BEGINS

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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