

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

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT - THIS Friday, May 3

All are welcome for a FREE family movie night on the lawn this Friday. Crafts for the kids start at 7 p.m. We'll also have snacks available for sale. "The Empire Strikes Back" will start at 8 p.m.

WHO WE ARE LUNCH - Sunday, May 19

If you are new to GU and would like to know more about us and some of our leaders, we invite you to lunch after service Sunday, May 19th. Please fill out a Connection Card noting Who We Are Lunch, and place it in the offering.



Join us on Mother's Day! Ladies will show off their mom skills in our Momlympics. All moms will receive a very special gift, and one lady will win a trip to the Designed for Life women's retreat!



YOUTH CAMP registration for kids in Middle-High School is open! Camp is June 10-14. Cost before **May 12** is \$160. After that it's \$185. You can get your registration forms and contact Caleb McFarland for more information at macc0027@gmail.com. You can find out more about the Southern Missouri Youth Camp at smymonline.org/youthcamp.



It's also KIDS CAMP time! Your kids will have a blast and grow closer to God through an amazing variety of fun activities and ministry opportunities. Registration is open **NOW!** Register your kids before May 1st for the best price of the season! **Contact Lisa Spindler at spindlers@gmail.com if you didn't get an email from us or want more info.!** Details can also be found on our website and FB page.

REGIONAL PARTIES



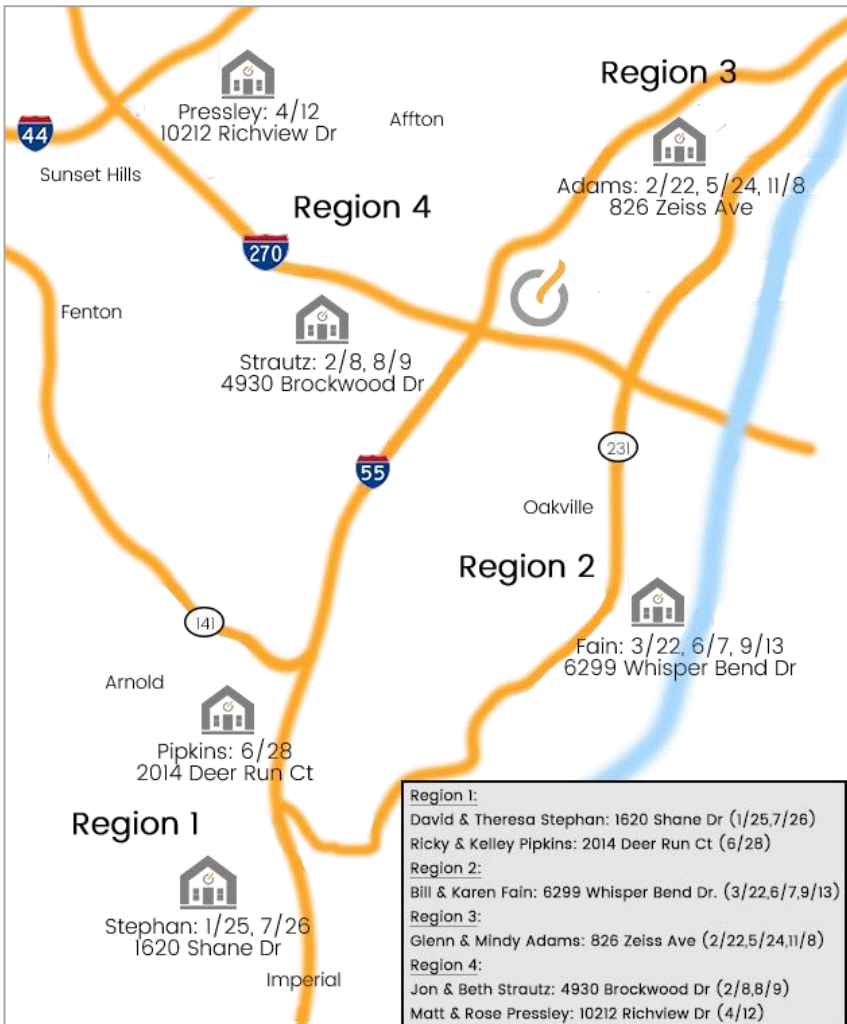
Get to know your GU neighbors with our Regional House Parties! See the map and schedule below to find your Region, host addresses and 2019 dates. Parties begin at 6:30 p.m. Bring a snack to share if able. If not, that's ok. Don't let that stop you from coming!

UPCOMING PARTIES:

May 24: Region 3 - Glenn & Mindy Adams

Jun 7: Region 2 - Bill & Karen Fain

Jun 28: Region 1 - Ricky & Kelley Pipkins



Come and Become (Part 1): Hot or Not

Unfortunately we are no strangers to the feeling of uneasy wondering about how we rate.

1st Century Israel had its own ways of Rating People.

Gentile = outsider or 0 <<< Jews of varying degrees of Importance = 1-10

In that setting Jesus showed up and preached this sermon.

Matthew 4:17 - Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near.

The people Jesus was talking to would have thought they ALREADY WERE part of the Kingdom of Heaven.

I. Whether you consider yourself a Sinner or a Saint, we all must Repent to participate in God's Kingdom.

- A. Even though Israel was God's people, you could be a total insider based on their rules, and still not really be functioning according to the Will and Values of God.
- B. People (as a whole) turned away from God's rule and God's will in a garden called Eden thousands of years ago.
 - We chose: Self Rule. Self Exaltation. Self Satisfaction.
- C. Whether you are Buttoned up or Strung Out, whether you feel you fit the mold or not; Jesus' invitation to all of us stands the same.
 - Repent.
- D. There is not One of us or one class of us here today that Need Repentance more or less than others.

II. Jesus' invitation was NOT for us to BECOME something and then COME to him. His invited us to Come before we become.

Matthew 5:3-10

- 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:11-12

- 11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.
- 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

III. Point: Jesus Invalidated our Rating Scale. Inviting those who had never been seen as God's kind of People.

- A. The "blessedness" is not because of the conditions described, but in spite of them.

IV. The Secret to Jesus' wide open Invitation is that our partnership is based on God's strength and value not our own.

- A. The Blessedness is not Attained by us, but is being given to us or done for us.

Isaiah 64:5-9

- 5 You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved?
- 6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all of our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.
- 7 No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins.
- 8 Yet you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are the work of your hand.
- 9 Do not be angry beyond measure, do not remember our sins Forever.

Romans 3:21-25

- 21 But now a righteousness apart from the law has been made known, to which the law and the prophets testify.
- 22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and gentile
- 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
- 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.
- 25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood to be received by faith.

- B. Jesus came as a 10 to be a 10 for all of us 0's.
- C. By putting faith in him he becomes the face God sees when he "rates us."
- D. By following him, over time, he transforms us by grace making what we are in reality match up to what we are by faith in Jesus.

2019 PRAYPURSUEPARTY

MAY

- 3 Movie Night (Empire Strikes Back)
- 12 Mother's Day
- 19 Who We Are Lunch
- 23 Men's Dinner
- 24 Regional House Party (Adams)
- 26 Water Baptisms
- 6,13,20 Food Addicts Anonymous

JUNE

- 2 Healthcare Team Meeting
- 7 Regional House Party (Fains)
- 10 Youth Camp Week
- 16 Father's Day
- 17 Kids Camp Week
- 22 Men's Breakfast (Golden Corral)
- 26 Wednesday Night Experience

* 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
Adults Group @ 9am



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

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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