

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.

News & Events

GU BIBLE READING PLAN

Join the *GU 2020 Reading Plan* of the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs through the YouVersion Bible app today! See our Facebook Page or website for the invite link, and we can read along together, and share comments and questions.

PRAYER MINISTRY MEETING - TODAY

Scott Swartzbaugh and Jerry Harrison are leading GU's ministry for prayer needs and hospital visitation. If you are interested in participating with them please stay for an informational meeting in Conference Room A right after service. You can also contact them with these needs at 314.650.0169 (Scott) or 314.724.5960 (Jerry).

WATER BAPTISM - Sunday, February 16

Water baptism is a public declaration of one's newness of life in Christ. If you would like to take this important step of faith, please fill out a Connection Card (noting Baptism), and place it in the offering or Giving Box in the lobby.

GUStudents - Fine Arts Festival, March 13-14

GUSM will be attending the district 2020 Fine Arts Festival. The cost per student will start at \$80. Submissions and forms need to be turned in by **THIS WEEK**. Contact Pastor Josh at jquickgu@gmail.com.



REGIONAL PARTIES



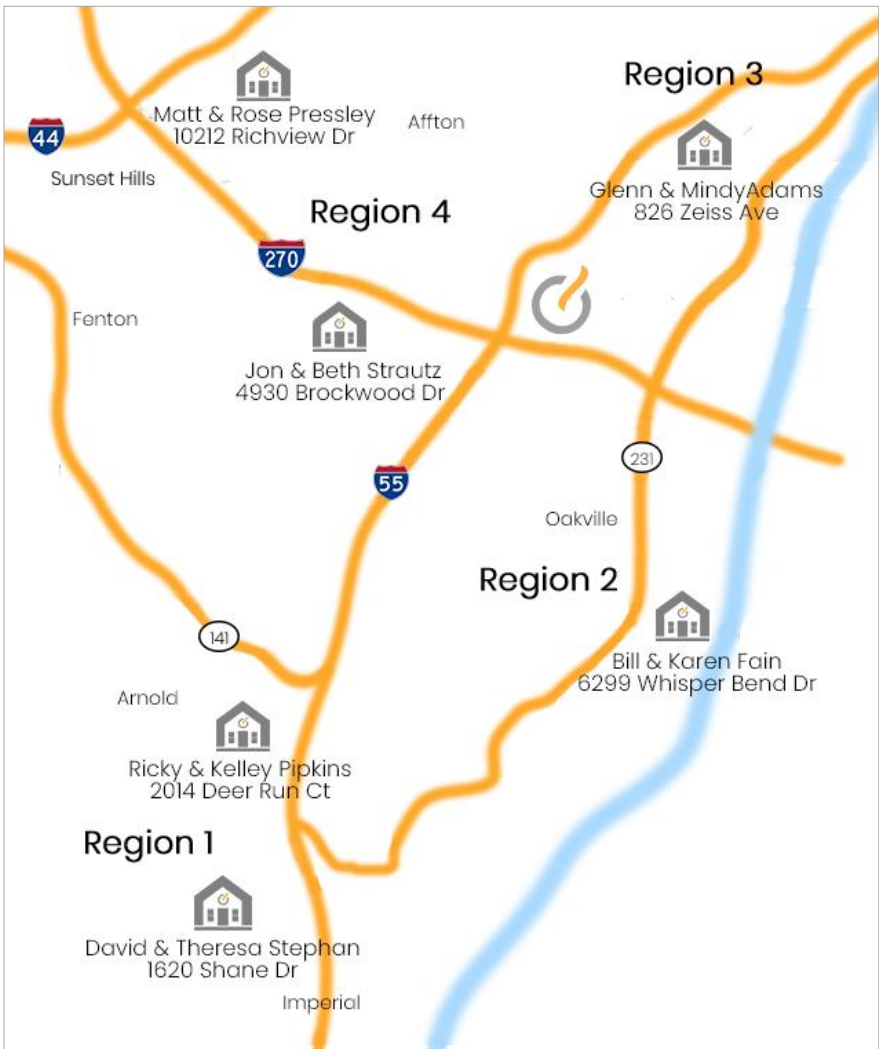
Get to know your GU neighbors with our Regional House Parties! See the map and schedule below to find your Region and host addresses. Parties begin at 6:30 p.m. Bring a snack to share if able. If not, that's ok. Don't let that stop you from coming!

UPCOMING PARTIES:

Jan 31: Region 1 - David & Theresa Stephan

Feb 28: Region 4 - Jon & Beth Strautz

Mar 13: Region 3 - Glenn & Mindy Adams



Whatever It Takes Part 4: From Stars to Constellations

Romans 12:2-5

- 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.
- 3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.
- 4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,
- 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

I. **Problem: This fallen world conditions us to think in terms of stars.**

- A. There is a reason we pine for recognition and fame.
 - Lusts of the flesh, lusts of the eyes, and pride of life.
- B. We usually don't view our hunger for affirmation and spotlight as a desire to be a star, but that is essentially what we want.
- C. But the Scriptures are inviting us into a new paradigm.

II. **At our best we function as part of a constellation, not a mere star.**

- A. There is more to you than just you. But the "you-focused" life that you have been conditioned to is hindering you from experiencing it.
- B. One person is capable of some pretty cool stuff, but think of what is possible when multiple people combine their efforts.

Ephesians 3:10-11

- 10 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,
- 11 according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord

Ephesians 1:22-23

- 22 And God placed all things under his (Jesus) feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,
- 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

III. God's plan is that, together, we would be the fullness of Him in the world.

- A. We get stuck thinking in the patterns of this world, so we mistakenly think the key is to recruit stars.
- B. What the church needs to succeed is for the church to be THE CHURCH.
- C. But you and I can only function as a constellation when we are knitted together in unity with EACH OTHER.
- D. When we use the abilities God has given us while joined in community, it adds new dimensions to what is happening.

IV. What does it look like, in practice, to function as constellations rather than stars?

- A. Love each other deeply.

1 Peter 4:8 - Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

- We need to be committed ahead of time to a kind of love that is ready to stretch itself in order to cover the failings of those within the church.
 - Stretchy Love means No-Matter-What Love.
 - "Here comes _____. What an opportunity to stretch my love."

- B. Encourage each other continually.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 - Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

- The possible meanings of "encourage" and "build up" are deliberately broad:
 - To strengthen - Comfort - To teach - To repair
 - To add to - Push and challenge.
- Encouragement can be in response to need, or it can just be an opportunity to bless.
- To encourage each other is to watch for and seize opportunities.
- Sometimes our encouragement will utilize a Spiritual Gift God has given us, and sometimes it will be a completely natural thing.

As we keep coming back to these 2 actions steps, over time we will become less of a star and more of a constellation.

2020 PRAYPURSUEPARTY

JANUARY

- 5 Healthcare Team Meeting
- 5 Ladies Christmas Party
- 24 Youth Winter Retreat
- 31 Regional House Party (Stephan)
- 31 Fine Arts Submission Deadline
- 6,13,20,27 Food Addicts Anonymous

FEBRUARY

- 2 Healthcare Team Meeting
- 9 Who We Are Lunch
- 16 Water Baptisms
- 22 Men's Breakfast (Golden Corral)
- 23 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
- 28 Regional House Party (Strautz)
- 3,10,17,24 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



SUNDAYS @ 9AM
Adults (Ministry Hub)



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



DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN
YouVersion app (NT, Ps, Prov)



PRAYER & HOSPITAL NEEDS
Scott Swartzbaugh - 314.650.0169
Jerry Harrison - 314.724.5960

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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- **Rev. Josh Quick, Youth Pastor**
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- **Crystal Myers, Early Childhood Director**
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