



GRACE NEWS & NOTES



May 1, 2019

Here's an Easy Way to Invite People to Church

by Alex Tran

Let's face it. When we invite people to church, the idea of it can be nerve-wracking.

There's a lot of inner dialogue that happens. How do I bring it up in conversation? What if I come across as judgmental? What if I get rejected? What if I make them uncomfortable?

The tendency is to ask a lot of "what if" questions that focus on the negative side. But what if you reminded yourself of the potential, instead?

- What if God has been preparing their heart and has been waiting for me to invite them?
- What if they say yes?
- What if they're hurting and find healing at church?
- What if they give their life to Christ because of me, and future generations are changed because of it?

Keep those in mind, and use the tips below to overcome any fears you might have! If you're living in a culture where Christianity—let alone church—seems like an impossible topic, you might enjoy this post about talking about Jesus with friends of any faith.

How do you bring it up in conversation?

Approach #1 – When you're not sure whether they attend a church.

Lead with this simple question.

I was wondering, do you go to church anywhere?

If they answer yes, then the follow-up conversation is easy.

That's great! So happy to hear you have a church home. What church do you attend?

This approach works because it celebrates the church they're connected to and shows them you're not trying to recruit them to your church.

If they answer no, you can follow up with an invite.

Well, if you're ever looking for a great place to go, I go to (insert your church here) and would love to see you there!

This language is simple, casual, and friendly in tone. It doesn't assume they're looking for a church and leaves the decision up to them.

If they don't ask a follow-up question or engage further, then you'll want to leave the conversation at that. If they ask a question or share a bit of their faith journey, then it's a good sign they're open to hearing more.

Take the opportunity to share more about your church: why you love it, how God's used it in your life, give them an invite card, etc. *(continued on page 7)*



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May**
- 1** Choir-7:30 pm
 - 4-5** 24-Hour Prayer Vigil for "Invite Your One" Sunday-10:00 am-10:00 am
 - 5** Prayer Group-8:30 am
Worship (Invite Your One)-10:15 am

Kid's Club-5:00-6:00 pm
Snupper-6:00-6:30 pm
The Bridge-6:30 pm-8:00 pm
 - 6-10** Meals-on-Wheels (*our members deliver the meals*)
 - 8** **"Sharing Grace"** (Endowment Board hosts)-5:30 pm
Choir-7:30 pm
 - 9** Breakfast Club meets at Little Nashville-9:00 am
 - 11** House Build in East St. Louis-7:30 am-?
 - 12** Prayer Group-8:30 am
Worship (Mother's Day)-10:15 am
No youth groups this evening
 - 14** Happy Days Board-6:00 pm
 - 15** Choir-7:30 pm
 - 18** Boy Scouts' Pancake Breakfast in Fellowship Hall- 8:00 am-noon
 - 19** Prayer Group-8:30 am
Worship (Graduate Recognition)-10:15 am

No youth groups this evening
 - 20** Trustees-6:30 pm
 - 21** Education-6:45 pm
 - 22** **"Sharing Grace"** (Trustees host)-5:30 pm
Choir-7:30 pm
 - 23** Happy Days Preschool Graduation-5:00-9:00 pm
 - 25** Sr. High Putt-Putt Golf Outing (*time to be determined*)
 - 26** Prayer Group-8:30 am
Worship-10:15 am
No youth groups this evening



BIRTHDAYS

- May**
- 5** Arrianna Birchard
 - 6** Jay Summers
 - 8** Matthew Sauerhage
 - 10** Khloe Birchard
Phil May
 - 17** Ruth Fischer
Bridget Styninger
 - 19** John Hallock
 - 20** Gary Clark
 - 24** Nancy Barger
 - 26** Mike Reynolds
 - 29** Debra Gibbs
Cole Sauerhage
 - 30** Bruce Brown

ANNIVERSARIES

- May**
- 4** Jeff & Rose Ceglinski
 - 10** Gerry & Phyllis Dintelman
Mike & Wynnle Reynolds
 - 26** Dave & Ruth Fischer

Congratulations everyone on your milestones! If your name was not included in our list, please inform the office so that we can update our records.

April Report

Date	Attendance	Offering
04-07	85	\$3,853.70
04-09	Online (Vanco)	\$ 399.25
04-14	106	\$3,593.10
04-17	Online (Vanco)	\$ 289.05
04-21	135	\$2,032.00
04-21	Easter Offering	\$5,025.00
04-24	Online (Vanco)	\$ 300.00
04-28	97	\$1,910.10

From Me to You

I was recently looking through some notes I took at an event in 2005 that featured Leonard Sweet as the main speaker. The last thing I wrote down that I thought was worthy of remembering that day was this: **“The message is sacred, methods are not.”**

Leonard Sweet started that 3-day event talking about how we are living in a post-Christian world. By that he meant that here in the United States, less than half of the population is Christian. It used to be more than half, but it is now less than half. And it's less and less all the time.

Sweet mentioned that each church needed to do an MRI scan. M stood for missional. How missional are we? What and how many are we sending out? Are we a GOOD church? **Get Out of Doors**. In other words, are we reaching the people that are in the community? Those not presently here and connected?

That is why we made a covenant to go through STEP UP. We learned that we fall short in being that kind of church. We are not a GOOD church based on the definition above. But when the NEXT STEPS were presented and after 30 days of praying about those next steps, as a congregation you voted to follow through with the next steps so that we might grow in the areas that needed improvement. If we stay true to what we have committed to do then we can become a GOOD church.

The R in MRI stands for relational. You know by now that Jesus died to bring us into a right relationship with God. John 14:6, the way, truth, life.

It is only by being in a relationship with God that will lead us into a GOOD relationship with others.

The I in MRI stands for Incarnational. Jesus gave us the model in his birth. Even though he was equal to God, he took on the form of a human being; he became flesh so that we might live. John 13-17 is Jesus repeating over and over what that looks like for us so we would understand. “Love others as I have loved you.” **The true test of being Incarnational: What are you willing to lay down?**

If we are going to get Grace church in an MRI mode, we need to not only expect change, but we need to become an expert in change. Christianity is declining here in the United States. There are just a few exceptions. So change is no longer mysterious! But we still are resistant and it is hard to make it happen.

Let me remind you once more, the small group opportunities and the **Invite Your One Sunday** are just two of the NEXT STEPS you agreed to follow through with this year. I hope you realize that all of what we are doing is a part of a plan for the future of our congregation.

We are to begin having a conversation about what a modern worship experience would look like for Grace. We have some reading material available for you at Grace to help us understand the terminology used when we say modern worship. I hope you are interested enough to pick up a copy and read through it.

Keep Being Faithful!

Pastor Bill



YOUTH Activities

...for May

May 5: The following youth groups will meet:

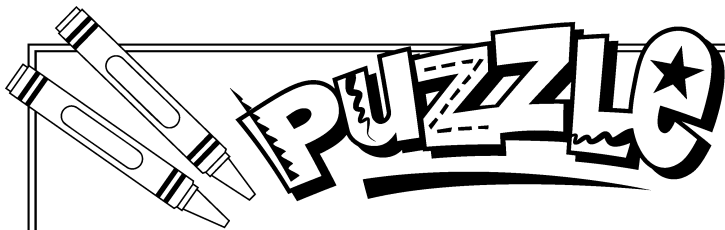
5:00-6:00 p.m., Kids' Club

6:00-6:30 p.m., Snupper

6:30-8:00 p.m., Bridge

May 25: Sr. High Youth Putt-Putt Golf Outing, time to be determined.

For more information and to sign up for any of these youth activities, please see Mike Savard, Director of Children & Teen Ministries.



A blessed woman

The last chapter of Proverbs describes a woman who loves God and strives to be a good wife and mother.

Directions: Use the picture clues to complete Proverbs 31:15, 28.

She gets _____ while it is still _____ ;



she provides _____ for her _____



Her _____ rise _____ and



_____ her blessed.



PROVERBS 31:15, 28 (NIV)

Answer: up, night, family, food, children, up, call

Small Group Bible Studies Offered in May and June!

Please feel free to sign up for one or more small group studies that may interest you.

Bible Study: "The Wesley Challenge: 21 Days to a More Authentic Faith"

Research shows that it takes 21 days to develop a habit. The goal of this study is to make Christian practices into a routine, forming a way of life. In this study we will explore 21 questions, concerning one's spiritual life, John Wesley used to help Christians grow deeper in their faith.

This study is designed as a daily devotional and reflection concerning one of the 21 questions presented by John Wesley. There are seven (4-5 page) sections to work through each week. During our small group meetings we will discuss the seven previously read questions, do some soul searching and hopefully develop ways to become more deeply committed Christians.

As the title says, this is a 21-day study and we will meet as a group three times on **Tuesdays at noon in the church library starting May 14th**. Books are available in the office for those signing up to participate in this study. **May 8 is the day you should begin reading and reflecting.**

Bible Study: "It's Not Supposed to be This Way"

Reality often ends up so very far from the life we long for. This six-session small group study offers a safe place to share disappointments, receive fresh biblical insight to get through painful situations, and discover life-giving perspectives that provide strength in God to wrestle well between our faith and feelings.

This group will meet at **7:00 PM, Monday evenings, starting June 3, 2019, in the home of Kourtney Hake, 456 W. Elm St., Nashville, IL 62263.**

Other small group studies are being planned and will be announced at a later time.

Marriage Night Event

On June 14, 2019, join other couples from 6 to 9 pm for a one-night marriage event. Laugh and learn with your spouse as you hear from marriage experts and discover how to honor God in your marriage.

Grace United Methodist Church in Nashville, Illinois will host a rebroadcast of the first Marriage Night livestream event in partnership with RightNow Media. Marriage Night will bring together husbands, wives, and engaged couples to hear from Francis and Lisa Chan (*You and Me Forever*), Les and Leslie Parrott (*The Good Fight*), and comedian Michael Jr.

Healthy marriages don't happen by accident. They require work and dedication, but with the busyness of life and the pressures of culture, it's easy to lose focus. What is marriage supposed to look like when those initial bursts of excitement give way to everyday troubles and routines?

Marriage Night is an opportunity to find practical answers to that question. The event will provide expert teaching and principles for a lasting relationship while challenging you to see the greater purpose of marriage—to glorify God and advance his gospel. Marriage is made for more than fairy tale endings. It's a picture of God's hope and redemption for a world in need of rescue.

Nashville Grace UMC will provide free child care and dinner for this event. Dinner will be served from 5:00 - 5:45 PM. If you will be joining us for dinner or utilizing our child care services, please phone the office at (618) 327-8407 and let us know how many to expect for dinner and the names and ages of the children you will be entrusting us to care for. We hope to make this an enjoyable evening for everyone.

To register for this event, please visit www.marriagenight.org. Invite your friends, family, co-workers and neighbors to attend this one-night event.



Echoes of Easter by Heidi Mann



The Resurrection wasn't a "one-off"; it was a spark that lit a flame that continues burning even today, especially where people minister in the Risen One's name. One such outreach, Camp Noah, serves children traumatized by disaster. Nationwide, volunteers offer week-long experiences of kindness, love, listening and safety to kids who've recently survived a tornado, flood, hurricane, wildfire or shooting. Kids often open up for the first time to share their "storm stories" and begin a journey of healing.

Leaders at Camp Noah attest to God's power to bring joy out of sorrow, trust out of fear and life out of death. A boy who initially was aloof dances with another camper at the closing worship; kids who arrived with uncertain expressions leave with smiles and regained confidence. Mental health counselors are part of camp teams, and referrals are made to continue care afterward.

Resurrection often happens in steps, not overnight. But wherever "ordinary" daily ministry takes place in Christ's name, extraordinary echoes of the first Easter are evident.

A Note from Happy Days Preschool

We have had a few parents asking about babysitters for the summer. If you know of any reliable and responsible high schoolers, please let me know and I'll pass along the names and numbers to parents.

Thanks,

*Miss Mary (618) 713-5240
or 327-8407 (church office)*



The children from Happy Days Preschool enjoyed Holy Week. Leftover palm strips from Palm Sunday were made into crosses.



Grace UMC Endowment Board Scholarships—\$1,000 each

Required: Application, Essay, Proof of Acceptance or Transcript showing courses and grades from previous semesters, Proof of Enrollment as a full-time undergraduate student for the fall semester, Member of Nashville Grace UMC.



Applications are available on the counter in the church office. Applications may be filled out now. **Deadline: June 15, 2019**

Note: *The Endowment Board meets quarterly—January 9, April 10, July 10 and October 9.*

Eastside Heart & Home Family Center East St. Louis

Come One! Come All!
Saturday, May 11, 2019

We need volunteers to help with the home building blitz at East St. Louis Heart & Home Family Center. You will not be disappointed!

Childcare for the day will be provided at Grace UMC (fun, games, snacks, lunch). **Transportation** to the site is provided. The church van will leave the parking lot around 7:30 a.m.

There is a sign-up sheet on the credenza in the back of the sanctuary. A release and waiver of liability form, as well as volunteer medical information form, will need to be filled out by those who are going.

(continued from page 1)

Approach #2 – When you know someone doesn't attend a church.

Try leading with this question:

I'm curious—did you ever go to church when you were growing up?

The key with this question is how you follow up.

This question is an easy way to start a conversation, but the real value is learning more about a person's background with church, faith, and Christianity.



There could be many reasons why someone doesn't currently attend a church. They could've had a bad experience growing up.

Been hurt by people. Maybe they've always wanted to but never made it a priority.

Whatever the reason, you're trying to understand why. So don't be afraid to ask follow-up questions.

- Have you ever thought about attending a church (again)?
- If you don't mind me asking, how come you don't see yourself going to church?
- If it's not too personal a question, what was the bad experience you had?

The answers to these questions will help you tailor a more personal invite at the right time. Use what you learn, and ask God for wisdom on how best to invite them to church. That could be during this conversation or another time.

Is there something about your church they'd like? Is there a specific message series you can share that speaks to a situation they're going through? Do you apologize on behalf of other Christians or churches that have hurt them?

Remember, you don't have to invite a person the very first time you talk about church. That can be something you work toward.



Greeters:

May	5	Bernice Chambers and Julie Schroeder
May	12	Ron and Linda Luessenheide
May	19	John and Sara Sallee
May	26	Dan and Charlotte Simonton and Family

