

GRACE AVENUE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ATLAS

August 2022 - May 2023



GRACE AVENUE VISION AND MISSION

Our vision is to make disciples and make a difference through Jesus Christ.

Our mission is to eradicate homelessness in whatever form it presents itself. We believe that everyone needs a spiritual home, an emotional home, and a physical home.



BECOMING NEIGHBORS

August 14-28

We have people around us almost all of the time. Technically, because someone is nearby, they are considered our neighbor. We all have neighbors, but what does it truly mean to be a neighbor?

In Matthew 22: 34-40, Jesus reminds us that the greatest of all the commandments is to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves.

Jesus turns "neighbor" from a noun to a verb. Jesus calls us to be active in the process of "neighboring." In this series we will introduce important ways to use the new school year as an opportunity to transform our homes, community, and church into havens of hospitality.

August 14

"The Yoke is on Us"
Matthew 11: 28-30

August 21

"More than Enough to Go Around"
Matthew 14: 13-21

August 28

"Flock Party"
Matthew 18: 12-14

RESOURCES

The Art of Neighboring

by Jay Pathak & Dave Runyon

The Simplest Way to Change the World

by Dustin Willis & Brandon Clements (includes a six-week group study guide)

B.L.E.S.S.; 5 Everyday Ways to Love Your Neighbor & Change the World

by Dave Ferguson

Neighboring Movement Blog

www.neighboringmovement.org/blog



Reciprocal Missions: Short-Term Missions that Serve Everyone

by DJ Schuetze

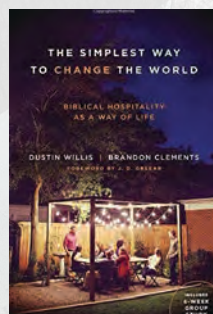
Our Purpose Is Love: The Wesleyan Way to Be the Church

David N. Field (leader study guide also available)

Watch for the Streetlight e-Newsletter for 52 weeks of
"Good Neighbor Experiences"

Not receiving the StreetLight?

Email: Communications@graceavenue.org



Homecoming

September 11-25

Sometimes the most important journey we ever make is the journey home to our true selves. This journey is necessary because we have become lost or harmed in our efforts to live an authentic existence. This is especially true in this trouble-filled age. When injured physically, emotionally, or spiritually, we often turn to pretense, distraction and self-loathing. We cover up or attempt to dull the pain. We long for a Homecoming that is more than a fabricated party.

The Bible tells many stories of people coming home. Most of these stories include the honest struggles, conflict and trauma faced by the characters. In this way, the Bible is never trauma adverse. Instead, the Bible is "trauma informed".

This is one of the callings of the Church. We, as followers of Jesus, serve a savior who walked through the trauma of crucifixion to the homecoming of new life. We do not deny or overlook those who are broken and hurting. We do not avoid their pain or ours. Instead, we believe in the redemptive power of God to bring us to the experience of wholeness and belonging.

September 11

"Homework"
Genesis 50: 15-21

September 18

"Homesick"
Judges 11: 4-11, 29-36

September 25

"Homebound"
Luke 15: 11-32

RESOURCES

Homecoming; Overcome Fear & Trauma to Reclaim Your Whole Authentic Self

by: Thelma Bryant, PhD

Cloud Cuckoo Land

by: Anthony Doerr (A novel about several characters whose lives intersect across many centuries in a classic tale about a homecoming)

Devotionals: Good Enough

by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie

The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma

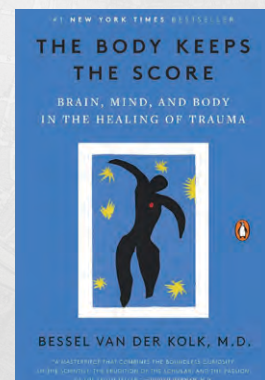
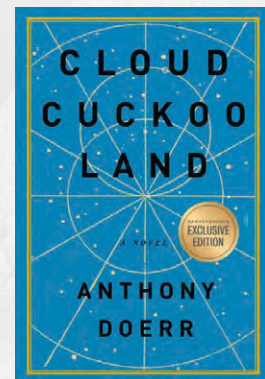
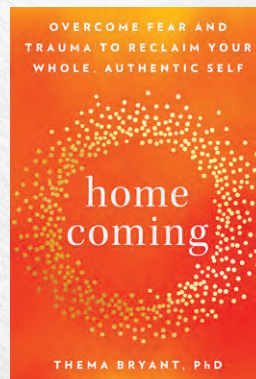
by: Bessel van der Kolk, M.D.

The Big Picture

by: Jevon & Nicole Caldwell-Gross

Finding Nemo

Disney Movie



Over the Rainbow

October 2-23

In the 1939 classic, *The Wizard of Oz*, we are transported to a land full of colorful characters and new ideas. As Dorothy looks for The Wizard to find her way home, she meets the Scarecrow, who wants a brain; the Tin Man, who desires a heart; and the Cowardly Lion, who lacks courage. After finally reaching The Wizard, the curtain is pulled back to reveal that The Wizard is an ordinary man. The foursome eventually discover that the power to return home, think, love, and be courageous was inside them all along.

Throughout our community, there are incredible people, fresh viewpoints and varied life experiences we haven't yet encountered. As we seek to move forward united in Christ's love, we remember that what is impossible for us, is entirely possible for God. Maybe, all the things we need to usher in a brighter, more hopeful future have been infused in us through God's power all along.

October 2

"Brain"
Philippians 2:1-11

October 9

"Heart"
Matthew 22:34-40

October 16

"Courage"
II Timothy 1:3-5

October 23

"Behind the Curtain"
Matthew 19:16-30

RESOURCES

Movie – *The Wizard of Oz*

Do I Stay Christian?

by: Brian McLaren

Wholehearted Faith

by: Rachel Held Evans

How to Be Here

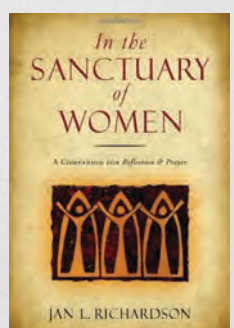
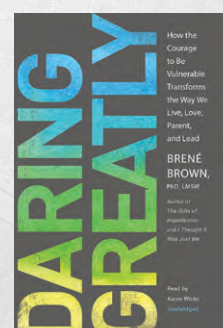
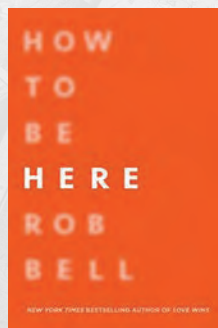
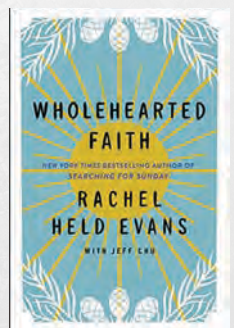
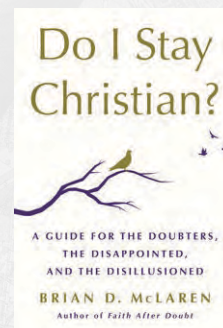
by: Rob Bell

Daring Greatly: How the Courage to be Vulnerable Transforms the Way we Live, Love, Parent, and Lead

by: Brene Brown

In the Sanctuary of Women: A Companion for Reflection and Prayer

by: Jan Richardson



Tell Me a Story

November 6-20

Everyone has a story. Every story has power. Stories are how we begin to understand one another, create connections and form lasting community. Stories are how we learn. They help us to build bridges and heal divisions. However, most of us are reluctant to share. We feel vulnerable to judgement, or we feel like our story is unimportant. In the church, we can use words like "testimony" or "witness" and that can feel even more daunting. But, at the root of testimony is our story.

God calls us to share the story of our faith and to invite others to hear God's message through our lives. During this series you will have the opportunity to hear a variety of our pastors and staff share the journey of their faith. How has God worked in their lives? What doubts and fears have they faced along the way? What stories do they have to tell and what do we have to learn from them? Everyone has a story and every story has power.

November 6

November 13

November 20

*Each speaker
will select a
scripture that
best tells their
story.*

RESOURCES

The Anthropocene Reviewed

by: John Green

Humans of New York: Stories

by: Brandon Stanton

Pastrix

by: Nadia Bolz-Weber

Faith Unraveled

by: Rachel Held Evans

No Time Like the Future

by: Michael J. Fox

The Book of Longings

by: Sue Monk Kidd

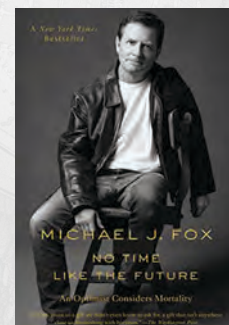
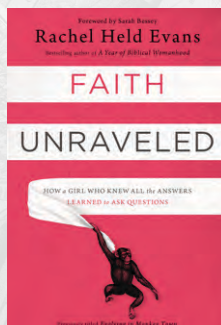
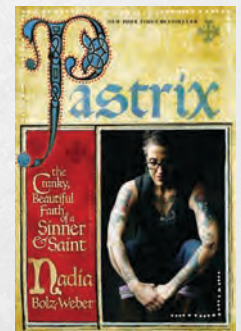
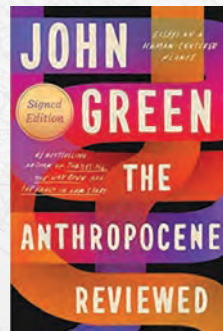
Beyond Belief

by: Joshua Hamilton

How (Not) to Save the World

by: Hosanna Wong

www.storycorps.org



THE KALEIDOSCOPE EFFECT

November 27- December 18

In the Church, we enter a season of hopeful anticipation leading up to the celebration of Jesus's birth called Advent, and yet, Jesus is already born.

Advent is truly meant to call us into another kind of hopeful anticipation, as we await Christ's return and the coming of Heaven on Earth. The gospel stories of Jesus's birth and the apocalyptic images of the book of Revelation all depict different images of the same God. Different images of the same Heaven.

When we look through a kaleidoscope, we see a pattern of reflected light that creates an image. As we turn the kaleidoscope, we see the image change again and again. Same light, same mirrors, but different images. As we enter a season of hopeful anticipation, we will turn these biblical stories and images over again and again, so that we might see God and Heaven more fully as we anticipate the coming of Christ. This is the kaleidoscope effect.

November 27

"Waiting and Watching"

Matthew 24:36-44

December 4

"Waiting and Preparing"

Isaiah 11:1-10

December 11

"Waiting and Dreaming"

Isaiah 35:1-10

December 18

"Waiting and Receiving"

Matthew 1:18-25

RESOURCES

Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey

by: Mark Allan Powell

The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation

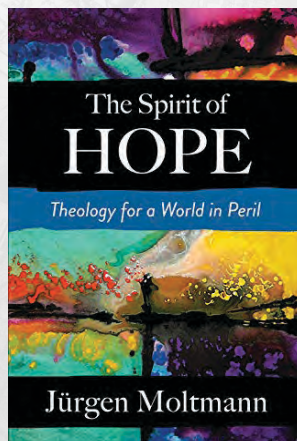
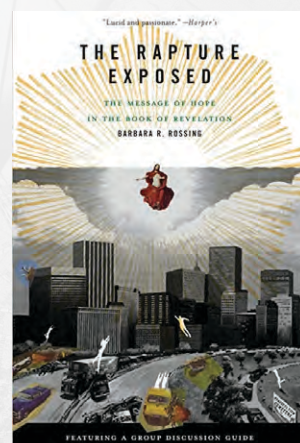
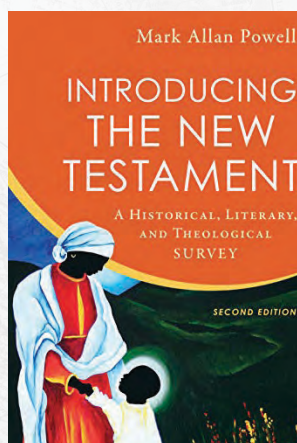
by: Barbara R. Rossing

The Spirit of Hope: Theology For a World in Peril

by: Jurgen Moltmann

Shadow and Light: A Journey into Advent

by: Tsh Oxenreider



FIRST.



January 8-22

The New Year is like hitting a reset button. We start over with a series of “firsts”; first day, first week, first month, etc. With these “firsts” comes a series of existential questions: What do I want to do first? What do I need to do first? Most importantly, what will I put first in my life? It seems that New Year's Resolutions are all about making choices about our priorities. In the midst of this choosing, there are so many people and things clamoring for us to make them our priority. Sometimes, this is why a new year of possibilities feels a bit overwhelming.

The Living Bible paraphrases a famous verse from Proverbs 3:5 by stating: “In everything you do, put God first...” This seems to be exactly what Jesus did, and exactly what he asks his followers to do. It begins with baptismal faith in a God who claims us as God's beloved children. Jesus calls us and invites us to invite others before we do anything else. Then, in all things we seek first to season the world with God's love and shine into the world, God's light. The new year is charged with all kinds of possibilities when we live into the words of Matthew 6:33: “Seek first God's Kingdom and God's righteousness and all these things will be added to you as well.”

January 8

“First Things First”
Matthew 3: 13-17

January 15

“First Impressions”
John 1: 35-51

January 22

“First Response”
Matthew 5: 13-16

RESOURCES

Putting GOD First in Giving and Living

by: Mike Slaughter

A Spirituality of Fundraising

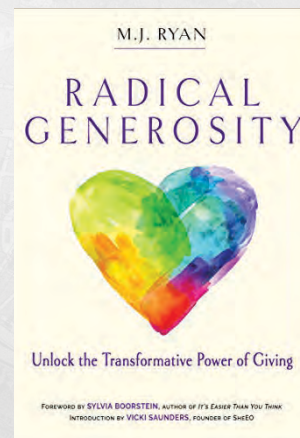
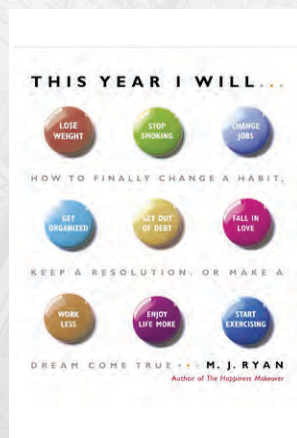
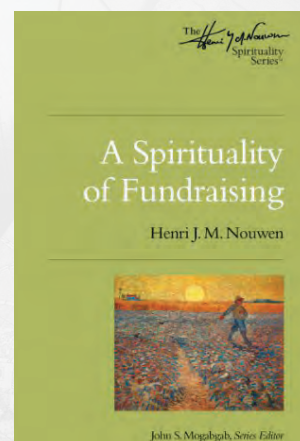
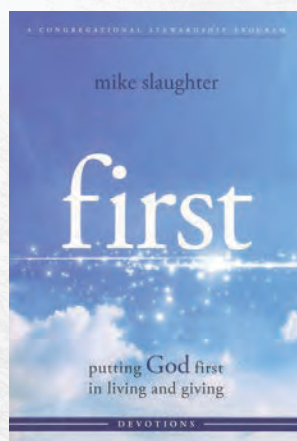
by: Henri J.M. Nouwen

This Year I Will...: How to Finally Change a Habit, Keep a Resolution, or Make a Dream Come True

by: M.J. Ryan

Radical Generosity: Unlock the Transformative Power of Giving

by: M.J. Ryan



CHOOSING LOVE

February 5-19

Many of us have felt the exhilaration of being in love. We have also felt deep disappointment once we are no longer in love. We have experienced similar changes in our non-intimate relationships.

What if our feelings are not the most important part of our relationships, but rather how we respond to them? In this "Season of Love", we hope to expand the tools we use to build healthier relationships with others.

February 5

"Boundaries"
Exodus 18: 13- 27

February 12

"Bridges"
Exodus 20: 1-17

February 19

"Balance"
Exodus 23: 10-13

RESOURCES

Love Does

by: Bob Goff

Everybody Always

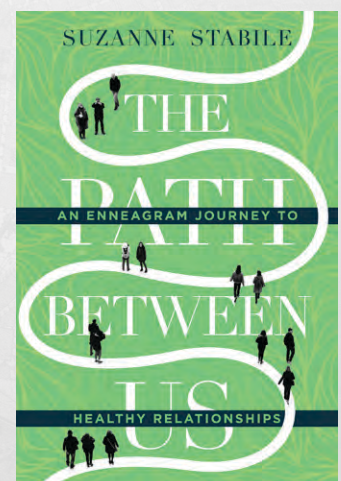
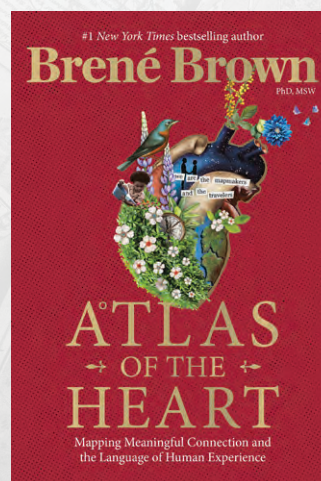
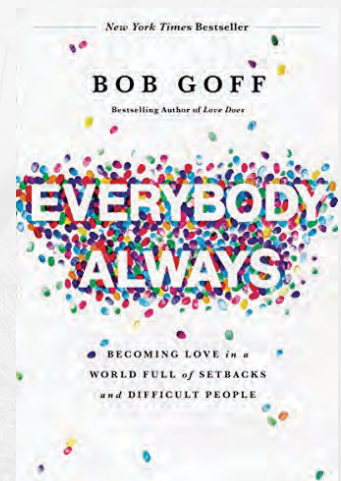
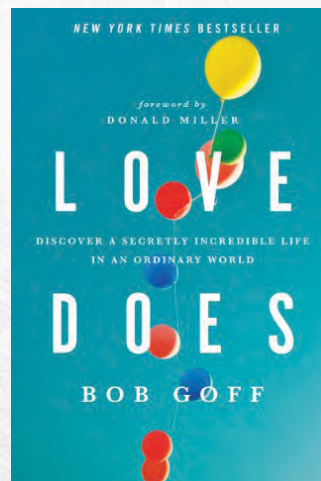
by: Bob Goff

Atlas of the Heart

by Brene Brown

The Path Between Us

by: Suzanne Stabile



Divine Disruption

February 26- April 2

We often want God to intercede or intervene in difficult situations, but what if God's grace is actualized through something disruptive? Maybe it is a question, an unusual encounter or an unresolved circumstance. Could such disruption jolt us out of our comfort zones and into new ways of living out our faith?

The themes of the Lenten season are intended to create an awakening, even if that awakening creates something unsettled within us. Temptation, confession, repentance, sacrifice and mortality challenge us to depend less on ourselves and more on the mercy of God. Such disruption can be found in the statement by Jesus which says: "If you want to be my disciple, you must take up your cross and follow me." (Matthew 16: 24)

Jesus had many encounters in which the people he met were amazed and bewildered. Some have famous names like Nicodemus and Lazarus. Others are unnamed like the woman at the well and the man who was blind from birth. In each instance, the disruption by Jesus led to ultimate transformation. What if this same kind of divine disruption is being offered to us?

RESOURCES

Reading John for Dear Life

by: Jaime Clark-Soles

John For Everyone, (Part 1 & 2)

by: N. T. Wright

Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence

Diana Butler-Bass

Devotions: The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver

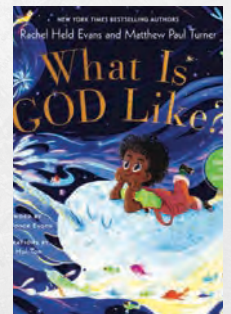
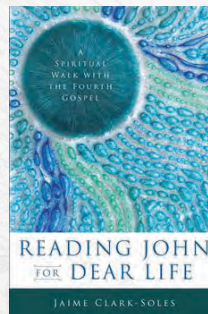
by Mary Oliver

What is God Like?

by: Rachel Held Evans and Matthew Paul Turner
(Children's Book!)

A Rhythm of Prayer: A Collection of Meditation for Renewal

edited by: Sarah Bessey



February 26

"The Accuser"
Matthew 4: 1-11

March 5

"The Curious Pharisee"
John 3: 1-17

March 12

"The Woman at the Well"
John 4: 5-42

March 19

"The Man Born Blind"
John 9: 1-34

March 26

"The Grieving Family"
John 11: 1-45

April 2

"The Unrestrained Hosanna"
Matthew 21: 1-17

Invitation to Co-Creation

April 16-30

Creation myths abound in the ancient world, stories that explain how and why we came to be, our purpose, and our relationship with the earth, animals and each other. In Genesis 1, we find a beautiful poetic retelling of the birth of humanity, called good by the Creator five times in Genesis 1:10-22 and 'very good' in 1:31. The symbol for all of creation is a luscious garden of life, brimming with joy, possibility and abundance. What was the purpose given to the humans of this overflowing paradise? Many use the Genesis 1 story to argue that dominion over creation is our purpose, but looking at the second creation story, we see the purpose is to grow: to "till it and keep it." If we look closely at the language, we find words that translate to guard, keep or preserve; not to use or dominate. We are invited to be co-creators, tending to all of creation.

To till and to keep recognizes that as co-creators, we "do not plunder and rape but [take] care and attention." What would humanity's relationship with the earth look like if we as Christians took the mandate from God to give back to the earth as it has given to us? How can we repair our relationship to the land and how we view ourselves interacting with creation to provide a more healthy understanding of God's creation? What would it look like if Christians took the call to till, protect, and grow as an invitation to be active in the life of this good creation with our Great Creator?

RESOURCES

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants,

by: Kimmerer, Robin Wall. Braiding

Church of the Wild: How Nature Invites Us Into the Sacred

by: Victoria Loorz

A New Climate for Theology; Life Abundant; The Body of God

by: Sallie McFague

Understand the Bible's Powerful Message for the Earth

The Green Bible

Where the Crawdads Sing

by: Delia Owens

PODCASTS:

The Liturgists

"Church of the Wild", April 20, 2022.

Another Name for Every Thing

"Environmental Awareness Rooted in Franciscan Spirituality"
with Richard Rohr, April 4, 2020.

On Being

"Episode 1,060. Robin Wall Kimmerer-
The Intelligence of Plants"
with Krista Tippett, May 12, 2022.

April 16

**"To Till and To Keep:
A Creation Story Retold"**
Genesis 1:26; Genesis 2:15

April 23

"Repairing the Relationship"
Genesis 2:1-9

April 30

**"Co-Creators with
the Great Creator"**
Mark 5:21-34

WESLEY'S WORLD

May 7-21



What does it mean to be United Methodist? What makes the United Methodist Church unique? John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Movement, held a unique theological viewpoint that shaped the world in a profound way.

Wesley's movement focused on personal and social holiness. It was a movement that grew rapidly as people first began meeting in private homes called 'societies.' When the societies became too large for members to care for one another, Wesley organized 'classes' each with 11 members and a leader. These classes met weekly to pray, read scripture, discuss their spiritual lives and collected money for the poor. As the movement grew, so did its critics. They called Wesley and his followers 'Methodist' because of the methodical way they practiced their faith. The movement would continue to grow throughout Wesley's life and he produced rich history of sermons and theological ideals. It's Wesley's World, we're just living in it.

May 7

"Living Faith"
James 2:1-7 and 14-17

May 14

"Grace Upon Grace"
John 1: 16

May 21

"Bring it all"
2 Timothy 3:14-17

RESOURCES

Five Means of Grace: Experience God's Love the Wesleyan Way

by: Elaine A. Heath

Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living

by: Ruben P. Job, illustrated edition

Being United Methodist in the Bible Belt: A Theological Survival Guide for youth, Parents, and Other Confused United Methodists.

by: F. Belton Joyner, Jr.

Wesley for Armchair Theologians

by: William J. Abraham

A Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials (Revised Edition). Nashville: Abingdon Press

by: Ted Campbell

Engaging the Word

by: Jaime Clark-Soles

The Band Meeting: Rediscovering Relational Discipleship in Transformational Community

by: Watson, Kevin M. and Scott T. Kisker



www.wesleybros.com

www.wesleyheritage.org.uk
read John Wesley's Sermons here

Weekly Sunday WORSHIP TIMES

SANCTUARY

9:15 & 10:30 am

Both services will be led by the Sanctuary worship team with the adult choir featured at the 10:30 am service

MODERN:

A Different Door: 9:15 am

A Different Door is a unique worship opportunity led by the Modern Team. There will be music, prayer, and other elements of worship. We will be also inviting different voices and perspectives to share in conversation about our faith and our world. Watch for more details

Modern Worship: 10:30 am

This is the regular Modern Worship service.

MODERN & SANCTUARY

Live streamed at

9:15 & 10:30 am

Recorded Worship Services

There will be a recorded Sanctuary and Modern Worship Services available to watch online after Sunday.

Holy Communion will be celebrated in ALL services on the **first** Sunday of the month & **weekly** at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary on the 2nd - 5th Sundays before the 9:15 services.

For more information about programs, mission
and ministries at Grace Avenue
www.GraceAvenue.org



find us on Social Media!



GRACE AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3521 Main St | Frisco, TX 75034
972-335-2882 | www.graceavenue.org