

August 2017 - April 2018

THE GRACE AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH *Atlas*

supply list →

- Justice
- Kindness
- humility

BIBLE TOOL KIT

Bright Ideas

#blessed

THROUGH THE
LENS

CALL TO ACTION

LET'S FACE IT

Fake News/Good News

Weekly Worship Times

Saturday: Sabbath Worship at 5:30 pm

Sunday Morning

Communion: 8:30 am

Traditional: 9:45 & 11:00 am
(Sanctuary)

Contemporary: 9:45 & 11:00 am
(Worship Center)

Find us on Social Media and Check-in for Worship!



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GRACE AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 12 - 27, 2017

~~Supply list~~
• Justice
• Kindness
• Humility

This time of year everyone has a list. We want to make sure we have everything needed and required for a new school year. This simple list from the prophet Micah has stood the test of time. It should be part of every Christian's ongoing supply list. It is part of how we participate in God's desire for a world of common good.

Aug. 12/13: Micah 6:6-8

Supply List: Justice
(Recognition of Educators)

Aug. 19/20: Micah 6:6-8

Supply List: Kindness
(Recognition of Students)

Aug. 26/27: Micah 6:6-8

Supply List: Humility
(Recognition of Public Servants)

Suggested Resources & Reading

What Does the Lord Require?

Doing Justice, Loving Kindness, and Walking Humbly
by James C. Howell

Journey to the Common Good by Walter Brueggemann

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City
by Matthew Desmond

*The Power of a Plant: A Teacher's Odyssey to Grow
Healthy Minds and Schools* by Stephen Ritz

*All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten:
Uncommon Thoughts on Common Things*
by Robert Fulghum

The Power of Kindness by Mac Anderson

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

September 2-17, 2017

**BIBLE
TOOL
KIT**

Many of the controversies in the Church today can trace their roots back to Biblical interpretation.

It is important to know what is in the Bible.

It is just as important to know what we believe about the Bible. What does it mean to take the Bible seriously? Does it mean you have to take it literally? How can the Bible be an essential tool for living a life of faith?

Sept. 2/3: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Taking Jesus' Bible Seriously

Sept. 9/10: Matthew 22:34-40

Taking The Church's Bible Seriously

Sept. 16/17: Psalm 119:103-112 & John 1

Living the Bible Seriously

Suggested Resources & Reading

Reading the Bible Again for the First Time by Marcus J. Borg

Making Sense of the Bible by Adam Hamilton

*Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes:
Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible*
by E. Randolph Richards & Brandon J. O'Brien

Eat This Book:
A Conversation on the Art of Spiritual Reading
by Eugene H. Peterson

The Moral Teaching of Paul: Selected Issues, 3rd Edition
by Victor Paul Furnish

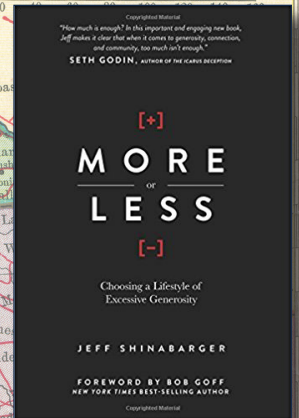
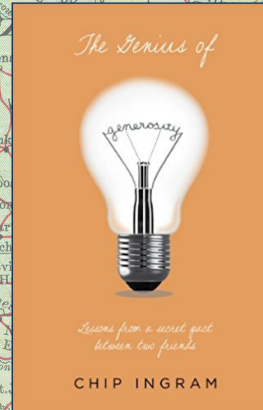
What is the Bible? by Rob Bell

Three Simple Questions:
Knowing the God of Love, Hope, and Purpose
by Rueben P. Job

A Year of Biblical Womanhood by Rachel Held Evans

Bright Ideas

When the light bulb goes on and inspiration occurs a new possibility is born. We are no longer trapped by what we don't have. Instead we are energized by the amazing potential of God's abundance. This is the genius of generosity. When we practice generosity, the world is a much brighter place.



Sept. 23/24: Matthew 6:19-24
Bright Ideas: Discover

Sept. 30/Oct. 1: Matthew 25:14-30
Bright Ideas: Risk

Oct. 7/8: II Corinthians 9:7-11
Bright Ideas: Hope

Oct. 14/15: Luke 21:1-4
Bright Ideas: Sacrifice

Oct. 21/22: Matthew 25:31-40
Bright Ideas: Commit

“Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them.”

Matthew 6:19

Suggested Resources & Reading

The Genius of Generosity
by Chip Ingram

www.GenerousChurch.com

More or Less: Choosing a Lifestyle of Excessive Generosity
by Jeff Shinabarger

*The Giving Heart:
Unlocking the Transformative Power of Generosity in Your Life*
by M.J. Ryan

*The Generosity Ladder:
Your Next Step to Financial Peace*
by Nelson Searcy & Jennifer Dykes Henson

Oh, the Places You'll Go
by Dr. Seuss

**Oct. 28/29:
The 500th Protestant Reformation**

1 Peter 2:4-10

Join with millions of Christians across the world as we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, one of the most important moments in our Christian heritage. It is no exaggeration to say that without the Protestant Reformation, we would not be worshipping at Grace Avenue today.

Nov. 4/5: All Saints

Revelation 7:9-17

During our All-Saints observation we remember all who have gone before us in their walk with God.

**Nov. 11/12: Numbers 6:24-26
The Lord Bless You & Keep You...**

**Nov. 18/19: Numbers 6:24-26
The Lord Make His Face
to Shine Upon You...**

**Nov. 25/26: Numbers 6:24-26
The Lord Lift Up His
Countenance Upon You...**

Suggested Resources & Reading

*Naked Spirituality:
A Life with God in 12 Simple Words*
by Brian McLaren

*Learning to Walk in the Dark:
Because Sometimes God Shows Up at Night*
by Barbara Brown Taylor

*Blessed:
A History of the American Prosperity Gospel*
by Kate Bowler

Same Kind of Different as Me
by Ron Hall & Denver Moore
(Movie to be released on October 20)

Of Mess & Moxie by Jen Hatmaker

#blessed

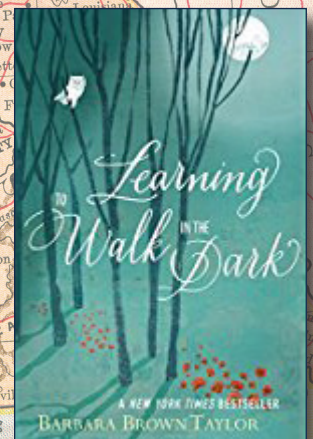
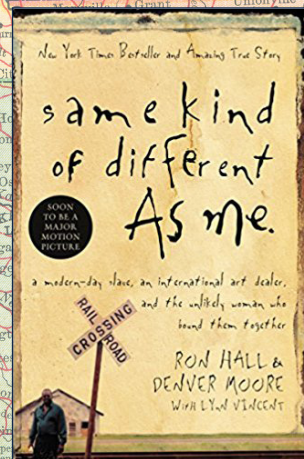
What does it mean to be blessed by God?
What happens when we think this blessing is
some kind of divine favor contest?

Is **#blessed** just another way of bragging; or
worse, hiding the deep flaws in our lives.

Maybe an ancient benediction holds
the key to keeping our blessings in their
proper perspective.

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon
you, and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon
you, and give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24-26



THROUGH THE LENS



The birth of Christ is viewed today through a variety of perspectives. Some see it as a season of parties and over-indulgence. Some see it as a hectic exercise in consumerism. Some see it as the most depressing time of the year. Is this what God intends? What would happen if we viewed the incarnation of God as an opportunity to see the world in a whole new way.

Suggested Resources & Reading

*Hidden Christmas:
The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ*
by Timothy Keller

*Watch for the Light:
Readings for Advent and Christmas*
by selected authors

*Hundred Dollar Holiday:
The Case For A More Joyful Christmas*
by Bill McKibben

*The Soul of the Camera:
The Photographer's Place in Picture-Making*
by David duChemin

A New Set of Eyes
by Paula D'Arcy

Unplug the Christmas Machine
by Jo Robinson & Jean Coppock Staeheli

*The Anatomy of Peace:
Resolving the Heart of Conflict*
by The Arbinger Institute

Dec. 2/3: Isaiah 2:1-5
Through the Lens of Hope

Dec. 9/10: Isaiah 11:1-10
Through the Lens of Peace

Dec. 16/17
Through the Lens of Joy

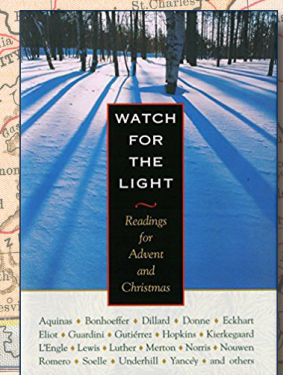
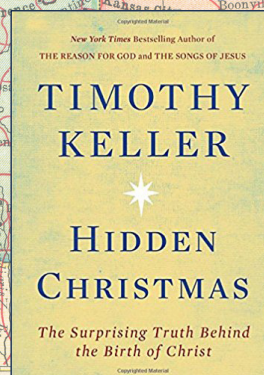
Dec. 23: Luke 1:46-55
Through the Lens of Love

Dec. 24: Luke 2:1-20
Through the Lens of Glory

Dec. 30/31: Luke 2:22-40
Through the Lens of Salvation

“Then they will beat their swords into iron
plows and their spears into pruning tools.
Nation will not take up sword against nation;
they will no longer learn how to make war.”

Isaiah 2:4



CALL TO ACTION

Jan. 6/7: Mark 1:4-11
Wade in the Water

Jan. 13/14: Mark 1:16-20
Without Hesitation

Jan. 20/21: Mark 1:21-28
Shaking Things Up

Jan. 27/28: Mark 2:1-12
Breakthrough

Feb. 3/4: Mark 3:13-19
Roll Call

Feb. 10/11: Mark 9:2-9
Responding to the Supernatural

We love stories of action and heroism. We are dazzled by tales like *Star Wars*, *Justice League*, and other Super Hero stories. The Gospel of Mark depicts Jesus in just this way. His story starts with a cape but it ends at the cross. What does it mean for us to become a part of Christ's story as his followers? Where are we in the great adventure of "the greatest story ever told"?

Suggested Resources & Reading

Mark

by Douglas R.A. Hare

The Hero with a Thousand Faces, Third Edition
by Joseph Campbell

Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church
by Rachel Held Evans

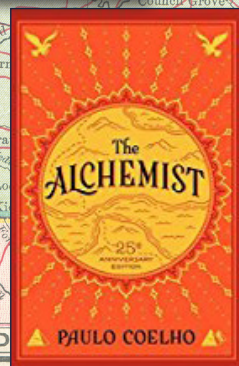
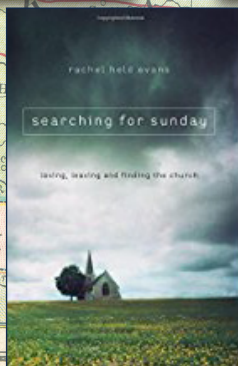
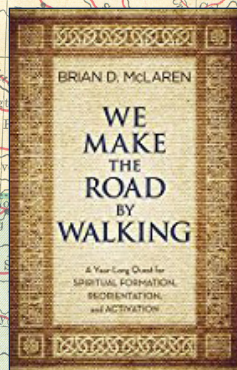
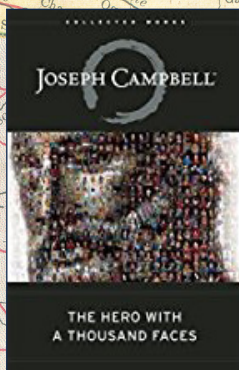
We Make the Road by Walking: A Year-Long Quest for Spiritual Formation, Reorientation, and Activation
by Brian McLaren

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
by C.S. Lewis

Braving the Wilderness: The Quest for True Belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone
By Brene Brown



LET'S FACE IT

Suggested Resources & Reading

*A Way Other than Our Own:
Devotions for Lent*
by Walter Brueggemann

*Comfort Detox: Finding Freedom from
Habits that Bind You*
by Erin M. Straza

*Walking with God through
Pain and Suffering*
by Timothy Keller

*Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and
Culture in Crisis*
by J.D. Vance

An Altar in the World
by Barbara Brown Taylor

Lent presents us with an opportunity to look in the mirror and see ourselves as we really are. It is easier to turn away and deny our reality and mortality. Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem and in doing so brought about the salvation of the world. When we face this truth; it does indeed set us free.

Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Luke 19:9-10

Feb. 17/18: Luke 9: 51-56
Let's Face It – Fear

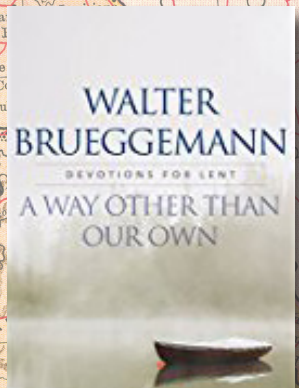
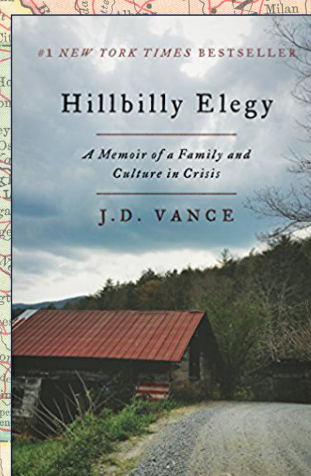
Feb. 24/25: Luke 9: 57-62
Let's Face It – Challenge

March 3/4: Luke 10: 1-12
Let's Face It – Struggle

March 10/11: Luke 13: 10-17
Let's Face It – Suffering

March 17/18: Luke 19: 1-10
Let's Face It – Judgment

March 24/25: Luke 19:28-44
Face the Music



Fake News/Good News

We don't know who to believe anymore.

We are told the most trusted news sources could be full of made up tales. In this respect, we are similar to Jesus' Disciples who struggled to hear the news of Christ's resurrection with confidence and joy. Through faith, we learn the truth of the God who is too good to *not* be true. This is what makes Easter more than just a day. It turns us into Easter people with a worldview of resurrection.

April 1 (Easter Sunday): John 20:1-18

Fake News/Good News

April 7/8: John 20:19-31

Doubting Thomas

April 14/15: John 21:1-19

Breakfast on the Beach

"Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

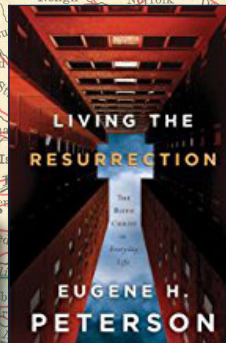
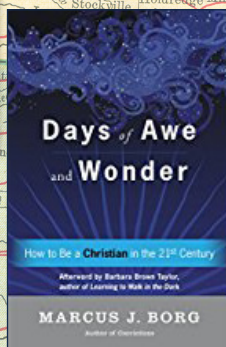
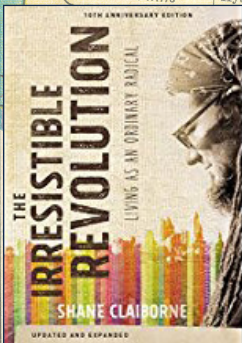
John 20:29

Suggested Resources & Reading

*The Irresistible Revolution:
Living as an Ordinary Radical
(Updated and Expanded)*
by Shane Claiborne

*Living the Resurrection:
The Risen Christ in Everyday Life*
by Eugene H. Peterson

*Days of Awe and Wonder:
How to Be a Christian in the
Twenty-First Century*
by Marcus J. Borg



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