
GRACE NOTES

Grace UMC **July** Newsletter **Worship Services via Livestream**

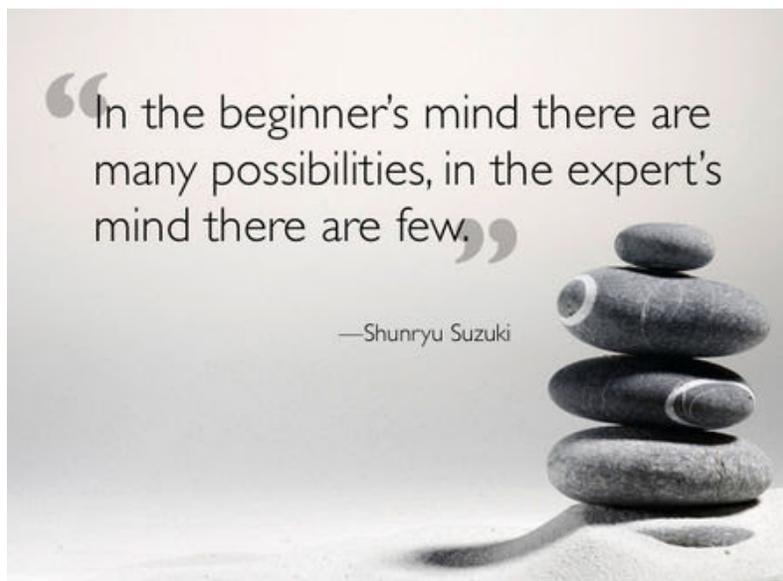
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The Beginner's Mind

Hello Friends,

Shunryu Suzuki was a Zen monk who popularized Zen Buddhism in the United States. In his book "Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind" he writes, "In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities, in the expert's mind there are few." The term beginner's mind is shoshin, "It refers to having an attitude of openness, eagerness, and lack of preconceptions when studying a subject, even when studying at an advanced level, just as a beginner would."

Having shoshin doesn't necessarily correlate to the amount of information or experience someone has about a subject but it's an orientation of the mind and heart. Another term for shoshin might be, the consummate student or learner. It's an important characteristic for us to cultivate because the more knowledgeable we become in an area the less open we become to new ideas and information.

It takes humility and courage to adopt the beginners mind because we have to forgo our pride and ego, and be willing to stand corrected.

The year 2020 is going to stand out in our collective memories and not necessarily for good reasons. We're currently experiencing a global pandemic; the United States has protested for businesses to be reopened, protested because of systemic racism, and it's also a presidential election year. While it seems like the battle lines are clearly drawn between opposing parties the reality is far from the truth.

The author of Ephesians writes, "For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in

the heavenly places.” The shoshin, beginner’s mind, is not looking for the easy target, but is willing to examine the deeper issues that plague our nation and world.

How do we work together to fight a global pandemic, find a vaccine, and keep people safe? How do we understand and dismantle systemic racism without colorblind attitudes and absolving ourselves of responsibility? How do we have civil discourse about real issues without toeing the party line?

Our battle is not against flesh and blood enemies; it’s with our know-it-all attitudes and defensive postures. It’s a battle against spiritual forces at work in the hearts and minds of every single person. So I encourage everyone to remember your early membership vows to the United Methodist Church with the following questions:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

Do you confess Jesus as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to seek and serve him in each and every human being, in union with the Church, which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

As members of Christ’s universal church, will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

So let’s adopt the beginner’s mind so that we can learn more, listen better, and dig deeper. It’s what we’ve been called to do as followers of Jesus Christ, it’s what we’ve committed to do as members of Grace United Methodist Church.

If you’re not a member but interested in becoming a member, please reach out to the church office—I’d like to connect with you.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Paul



Bailey's News

This summer I am taking a class on Ephesians through my Seminary. Ephesians speaks of the church in terms of the universal church, the body of Christ. Through all that is going on in our country right now, I am encouraged to remember that we are all one body, that we are all made one in Christ. This does not mean not acknowledging our differences; a body consists of many parts, from the hands and feet to the head and eyes. We need diversity in the body because everyone brings something unique to the table. Let's celebrate and honor our diversity through listening, supporting, and speaking up for another.

"For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit[f.] of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way."
Ephesians 1:15-23

Kids on the Move

We have started a fun new curriculum called **Superbook!** Superbook is a video-based curriculum that is fun and entertaining for kids to watch, sharing a Bible story with them in around 25 minutes! At the end of June we learned about the story of Joseph from the Old Testament, learning that we should trust that God had a plan for us, that God's plan for us is good, and that God's plan for Jesus brought us salvation. In July we will be learning about how Jesus Feeds the Hungry! This curriculum is great because it gives your family the flexibility to watch the video whenever you want (Pastor Paul recommends Saturday or Sunday morning, because he used to watch Superbook as a kid during his weekend cartoon time). On Sundays at 1:00PM we are still meeting over Zoom and will discuss the videos briefly, but most of our time will be spent playing games and having a fun dance party time!

Summer Challenges

Each week over the course of the summer I will be posting a video in our Facebook group with a minute to win it style challenge! You will have all week long to submit a video of your child (and family, if they so desire!) completing the challenge! There will be small

prizes and badges awarded each week to the winners, and at the end of summer there will be a fun grand prize!

Connect Through Kindness

I was inspired by another church from my weekly Children's Ministry meeting to take on the challenge of completing 100 Random Acts of Kindness over the summer. Their entire church is coming together, and I invite all of our church family to join in on this endeavor. Post in our Facebook group, on your personal page, or just message me and let me know you completed one so we can keep a tally! Let's go out and BE the church, sharing the light of Jesus, in the world! Just 10 people from our church family doing one act of kindness a day over the course of 10 days would help us meet our goal! I challenge you to be one of the ten each day, and by the end of the month we could have performed upwards of 300 acts of kindness!



July Birthdays

Scott McJames - July 1

Joseph Prevo - July 2

Jonathan Thomas - July 3

Greg Humphrey - July 4

Jaedyn Reese - July 5

Ashley Aboona - July 6

Ann Greer - July 7

Nicole Borrego - July 8

Danielle Williams - July 8

Becca Williams - July 9

Lauren Allward - July 9

Sarah Immekus - July 9

Carter Volkers - July 10

Linda Burley - July 12

Mark Kivela - July 13

Elijah Helms - July 14

Karen Brucks - July 15

Margaret Brown - July 15

Ricky Gonzalez - July 16

Joni Lemons - July 16

Barb Faulkner - July 18

Aaron Guild - July 18

Matt Schaefer - July 18

Diane Rorabaugh - July 18

Lois Prezny - July 18

Jack Parks - July 19

Lindan Anthony - July 20

Wyatt Hansen - July 21



July Anniversaries

Ron & Carol Bell - July 11

Barry & Cathy Demers - July 15



Join Us for Online Worship Every Sunday!

Sunday worship is on Facebook Live at 10:00 am. You can find us at: www.facebook.com/LGUMC1/

You don't need a Facebook account to watch the services!

Prayer Requests

Share your prayer requests with the church by emailing them to: graceumcprayers@gmail.com If the prayer request is on behalf of someone else, please be mindful of sharing names and private details.

Church Building

While the church office is closed we ask that you refrain from entering the building. If you need to go inside the church, please be sure to let the church office know ahead of time. When you enter the building be sure to wash your hands immediately. Pastor Paul is available to speak with you one on one. You can either call him directly or set up a video meeting.

Weekly Prayer & Devotion on Facebook Live

Join us for a time of devotion and lifting up prayer requests live. Wednesday at 6:30 pm at: [facebook.com/groups/graceumcgroup](https://www.facebook.com/groups/graceumcgroup)

Offering

Keep supporting the ministry and mission of Grace United Methodist Church. You can either mail in your check to 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing, MI 48910 or give electronically at: www.lansinggrace.com/Donation



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