

We adapt and create new ministries to meet the diverse needs: I Corinthians 9: ²² Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. ²³ I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.

We make every effort to treat ALL people with grace. We seek to become a radically welcoming congregation: Colossians 4: ⁵ Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

We expect that a radical welcome of all people will make some people, especially “religious” people, uncomfortable. We might even be uncomfortable at times But prevenient grace reminds us that no one is “scum”!: Mark 2: ¹⁶ But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, “Why does he eat with such scum?”

Algona First United Methodist Church

Experience God’s Grace

Prevenient: Drawn to the Father’s loving embrace.

Justifying: Jesus dying in my place

Sanctifying: The Spirit’s strength to run the race.

Glorification: God’s love shines forever upon my face.



Welcome Serve Love

This Week’s Schedule

July 19

- Worship 5pm

July 20

- Worship 9am

July 21

- ELO 9-2pm
- Eastland Bible Study 1:30pm

July 22

- ELO 9-2pm
- Homestead @9am
- Van Buren @10am

July 23

- ELO 9-2pm

July 24

- ELO 9-2pm

July 25

- ELO 9-10am
- Office Closes @ 12 noon

Announcements

July Mission of the Month

Student Kits

- 3 Notebooks - 1 subject spiral 8"x10 1/2"
- 1 Ruler - 12" long with metric
- 6 Pencils - unsharpened
- 1 Pencil sharpener
- 1 Pencil eraser - 2" or larger
- 1 Box 12 colored pencils
- 1 Box 24 crayons
- 1 Pair student scissors
- 1 One-handed cloth bag

The Student Kit has been requested by our partner Food For The Poor to be used for disaster relief. Food For The Poor makes giant disaster relief kits for entire communities that commonly experience disasters. We provide Student Kits so children are occupied in the aftermath of a disaster, and so that they have a few basic school items for when they can return to school.

Our Mission

Bringing the hearts and hands of God's people together to transform resources into humanitarian relief.

What We Do:

We send tangible resources to those in need to make an intangible difference in their lives through hope and empowerment. In times of crisis internationally and in the United States, Disaster Relief, Health, Education, and Micro Business supplies are given freely through trusted partner nonprofits.

Pork & Sweet Corn Supper is August 5

4:30-6:30pm. Sign Ups are available in the church office. Come to the office to get your tickets!

Welcome & Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship *Based on Ephesians 2:8-9*

Leader: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith

People: And this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

Leader: Not by works, so that no one can boast.

People: For we are God’s handiwork

Leader: Created in Christ Jesus to do good works

People: Which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Opening Prayer

Lord, we come before You with humble hearts, recognizing that we are nothing without You.

Help us to lay aside any pride or self righteousness and approach You with open hearts. May we be receptive to Your Word and open to the work of Your Holy Spirit in our lives. Teach us to serve You with humility and grace. Amen.

*Song #73 “O Worship the King”

Old Testament Reading *Psalms 19:1-6*

Congregational Prayer Hymn #332 “Spirit of Faith, Come Down” Verses 1-3 (This prayer will be spoken, not sung)

*Song #340 “Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”

Sharing of Joys & Prayer Requests

Pastoral Prayer & the Lord’s Prayer

Offering & *Doxology

*Offertory Prayer

Our Father, we come before You with grateful hearts, acknowledging Your abundant blessings. In this sacred moment, we offer our gifts as a sign of our love and gratitude. May our offerings serve Your purpose, bring hope to those in need, and honor Your name. Amen.

*Song #355 “Depth of Mercy”

Children’s Message

New Testament Reading *Luke 15:1-7*

Message “Prevenient Grace: Weird Word, Wonderful Theology!”

*Response #121 “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

*Benediction *II Corinthians 13:14*

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Prevenient Grace:

A weird word, but a wonderful doctrine!

Prevenient Grace definition: The word prevenient comes from a Latin root word that means to precede. Prevenient grace is simply the grace that comes before. Before what? Justifying grace. <https://www.umc.org/en/content/god-at-work-before-we-know-it-prevenient-grace>

Analogy: John Wesley used the metaphor of taking up residence in a house to describe our spiritual journey. **Prevenient Grace** is being drawn to the “front porch” of the house as we are attracted to God. We want to spiritually “come home”. In **Justifying Grace**, we actually “enter the house”. By faith, we come through the “door” and enter God’s family. The entrance to God’s house is made possible through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We receive this new life by faith. **Sanctifying Grace** is learning to “be at home” in our new life. This is all about growing in love for God and others.

Theological Grounding:

God’s Love: God’s love is always the initiating factor in salvation: Ephesians 1: ⁴Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. Romans 5: ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. I John 4: ¹⁰This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

Creation: Humans are created in God’s image and thus have infinite worth: Genesis 1: ²⁷ So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Psalm 139: ¹⁴ Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.

Human inability: We are unable to make ourselves pure and radically change our self-orientation apart from the work of God. Romans 3: ²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Romans 7: ¹⁵ I don’t really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don’t do it. Instead, I do what I hate . . . ¹⁷ So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

Practical Implications:

Congregations that want to impact their communities will passionately embrace a ministry soaked in prevenient grace:

We start with grace. All people are created in God’s image. God is at work in all people: Ecclesiastes 3: ¹¹ Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart

Our approach to people is rooted in grace, not judgement. Grace, not judgement, is the motivation for heartfelt change: Romans 2: ⁴ Don’t you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can’t you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

We will take initiative to connect with people as they are rather than waiting for them to “come to us”: Luke 15: ⁴ “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it?