



A SAD SUNDAY AFTERNOON

There was a gathering at the intersection of Johnson Street and Longley Avenue on the afternoon of Sunday, April 23, 2023. The gathering included people from that neighborhood, teachers and students from Jefferson Middle School, members of the wider South Bend community, and the family of 11 year-old T'yon Horston, who was shot and killed at that intersection Thursday evening. I arrived for the gathering a little early and watched as community leaders and neighbors set up tables, opened pizza boxes and packages of paper plates, handed out umbrellas, and, for what seemed like hours, just stood there, at that corner, looking at each other and the make-shift memorial that had been growing since Thursday. Eventually, someone spoke. Then more people spoke. There were heartfelt memories shared. There were pleas for help in preventing kids from dying like this anymore. There were political promises made. There was agonizing surrender to overwhelming emotions in the wake

of yet another loss of life. In the midst of all of that I heard one woman say, cry really, "Are we not our brother's keepers?"

I have come to the conclusion, after considering that question for a few days now, that yes, if we follow Jesus, we are our brother's and our sister's keepers; or, at least we should be. We follow the One who said, "Love one another as I have loved you," and "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you," and "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." And yet, another tragic loss of life has come and gone. It's almost as if it doesn't matter. But, we follow Jesus. This, and all loss of life, should matter to us. And I would even suggest, when it is a child whose life comes to a tragic end, like T'yon Horston's did, it should matter even more. At the risk of some taking this to an ugly place of politics and division, I want to say clearly, "The life of T'yon Horston matters!" That statement is not intended to overshadow or reduce the importance of every

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other life. But right now I believe it's important for this community, including this church, to acknowledge and respond to this tragedy, from a place of knowing T'yon Horston's life matters! And so, his tragic, and far too soon, death cannot just come and go.

Following Jesus is hard!
Seeking justice is hard!
Loving our neighbors as we love ourselves is hard!
Finding solutions to the kinds of problems that result in the loss of 11 year old children in our city is hard! But we are our brother's and our sister's keepers, Church! The hard work is ours to do! I am ready to get started. Are you? I am ready to stand between the next child and the issues that threaten them. Are you?

I am ready to love my neighbor as I love myself. Are you? If so, I would love for us to sit down and talk about what that looks like. Would you? If so, call or text me at 765-437-6792 or email me at james.clark@inumc.org. Let's talk. Let's pray. Let's love our neighbors.

Peace,
Pastor Jim



JOIN THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY

The Christ Child Society of South Bend has served the children of St. Joseph County since 1947. Over a quarter million children have found the dignity of new clothing, the empowerment of education and the joy of learning to read - thanks to the dedicated volunteers of CCS.



The only requirement is the desire to brighten the lives of under resourced children. We are a nondenominational group of volunteers with a variety of volunteer opportunities.

COME TO THE INFORMATION COFFEE
MAY 10 from 9:30AM-11AM
Town & Country Shopping Center

For information or to make a reservation, contact info@christchilds.org or 574-288-6028. Learn more at christchilds.org.

EASTER EGG FELLOWSHIP FUN!

What an amazing day we had for the Easter Egg Hunt Fellowship. We were standing room only in the Great Hall before the kids were let go to find all their goodies. A Big THANK YOU to the congregation for all their donations and to the UMW for filling the 1600 eggs! A special thank you to Chris Rowe for donating all new eggs this year. It made filling them so much easier!!



SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENT ENJOYED BY ALL AGES

In an effort to bridge the generation gap between the older and newer Christians at Grace, the members of the J.O.Y. adult class and the youth of the high school and junior high classes met for their second combined Sunday School class this year on Sunday, April 23. A first meeting held in December was a combined Advent study of Adam Hamilton's *The Journey* and involved the high schoolers and J.O.Y. members viewing Hamilton's video together and then engaging in discussion. For this second, less formal class, the junior high youth were invited as well. Jovan Hill led a "Breakfast with Jesus" morning, which followed the story of the resurrected Jesus hosting breakfast for his disciples on the Sea of Galilee shores. The Grace youth and adults sat "family style" around four tables (an empty chair was saved for Jesus), sharing goldfish crackers, Swedish fish candies, and homemade cookies, and getting acquainted through a series of fun questions. Then participants read aloud and discussed around the table the Scripture "breakfast" story of John 21. The breakfast morning ended with the sharing of concerns and celebrations, followed by a closing prayer at each table. Young and old, these followers of Christ felt His presence in a vibrant morning spent building stronger bonds of love within the Grace "family."

Class teachers who shared in the morning activities were Jovan and Xerona Hill, Holly Easterbrook, Scott Dunham, Vicki Davis, and Jade Kayser.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAYS

9AM & 10:30AM Virtual & In-Person Worship Services
10:30AM Sunday School

MONDAYS

1PM Pilgrimage Healing (by appt.)
7PM A.A.

TUESDAYS

5:30PM Get Better Basketball

WEDNESDAYS

7:30AM Bible Study

THURSDAYS

7PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAYS

7:30PM A.A.

MAY 4

10:30AM UMW General Meeting

MAY 7 & 21

11:45AM Junior & Senior High School After Party

MAY 8

6:30PM Blue Star Mothers

MAY 13

10AM Paper Pantry

MAY 17

6:30PM Finance Committee Meeting

MAY 21 | Raggedy Ann Preschool Sunday

MAY 24

11:30AM UMW Executive Meeting

MAY 31

6PM Missions Meeting

JUNE 1

10:30AM UMW General Meeting

AMAZING GRACE NEWSLETTER



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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FACEBOOK | [sbgraceumc](https://www.facebook.com/sbgraceumc) YOUTUBE | [SBGraceUMC](https://www.youtube.com/SBGraceUMC)

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES | 9AM & 10:30AM | Livestream & In-Person

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION CALENDAR

If you would like to celebrate or memorialize a loved one or event by dedicating flowers for the altar, please sign up at signupgenius.com/go/70a084eadae2aa4f94-altar. Please sign up by 10AM on the Tuesday before desired date.

THE MORE WE KNOW, THE BETTER WE CAN CARE!

If you or anyone in your life needs care, love, prayer and support, please contact Melodie at 574-288-4789 or email the Grace Cares confidential email address at gracecares@gracemethodist.org. Grace Cares about you!



MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO GRACE UMC

If you would like to contribute, please scan the QR Code or text 574-444-3044 and follow the prompts. Please remember Grace United Methodist Church when doing your estate planning.

NEXT AMAZING GRACE SUBMISSION DEADLINE | TUESDAY, MAY 9