

**Hearing Assists** are available at the Sound Booth.

**Church Business Meeting:** There will be a church business meeting **TODAY** immediately following the worship service. Agenda items include the Elder Board's recommendation that **Sonja Smith** be welcomed into membership, a first quarter financial update, and an opportunity to ask questions about Pastor Don's upcoming sabbatical. The meeting is open to all who worship at GracePoint, and formal members are especially encouraged to attend.

**Hands of Grace Teacher Appreciation Outreach**—We would like to appreciate our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week May 2-6. We will be collecting pre-packaged snack items if you would like to help. Please bring snack items (chocolate, granola bars, fruit snacks, trail mix, etc) to the church before May 4. This is a great way to give the teachers some encouragement at a challenging time of year! If you would like to help distribute the baskets, please meet us at the church on May 4 at 2:00. All hands are welcome!!

The church family is invited to attend **AWANA Awards Night** this **Wednesday, April 27, 6:00 p.m.** Clubbers will receive awards and recognition for handbook work and memorizing verses. You may also want to **join us for the Wednesday Meal Committee's grilled hamburgers and hotdogs at 5:20.**

**Awana Clubbers and leaders!** Wear your Awana t-shirt next week, **for Awana Sunday, May 1**

**Due to** today's business meeting, the **brief VBS** meeting is postponed to **next Sunday, May 1**, immediately following the service. Please prayerfully consider how you may be a part of VBS. **Everyone** interested in helping in **any capacity** is encouraged to attend. We will meet in the community room. Questions, contact Pam R.

**Secret Church 2022**—This year's secret church conference is this Friday. Check out <https://radical.net/secret-church/> for more information or talk to Paul Iekel.

**Pastoral Sabbatical**—Please see the insert.

**Life Action Event Food**—Please see the insert

**Life Action Event**—Please see the insert.

*Please see insert for additional Announcements and Upcoming Events* ➡

**GRACEPOINT**  
CHURCH

1 E 22nd Street, Atlantic, IA 50022  
712.243.4738 • [GracePointAtlantic.com](http://GracePointAtlantic.com)

CALLLED TO  
*Connect*



*The Right Sort of Soil*  
Luke 8:4-15

April 24, 2022

**GRACEPOINT**  
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# WELCOME TO SUNDAY WORSHIP!

**Youth Sunday  
School & Adult Bible  
Classes**

9:15 a.m.

**Worship  
Service**

10:30 a.m.

*Your children are welcome in the worship service.  
The following ministries are also available:*

## **Nursery**

Available during the Worship Service for little ones from Infant—Age 2.

## **Children's Church**

Available for children 3 years old through 5th grade during the sermon.  
Children are dismissed at the end of Worship in Singing.

***On major holiday weekends there will be NO Sunday School,  
NO Children's Church, NO Nursery, and NO Adult Bible Fellowship***

***Thank you for financially supporting the ministries of our church!  
Tithes and offerings may be placed in the donations box  
immediately to the right when you enter the auditorium. They can  
also be mailed to the church by check, or you can give through our  
website via PayPal using a credit or debit card. Thank you!***

Looking for a place to serve? You can volunteer in music,  
children's and many more ministries. Email us at  
**serve@GracePointAtlantic.com** to get involved.



**Church Office**  
church@GracePointAtlantic.com

**Church Website**  
www.GracePointAtlantic.com

**Senior Pastor—Don McLean**  
don@GracePointAtlantic.com

**Pastor of Student & Worship Discipleship—Andrew Johnson**  
andrew@GracePointAtlantic.com  
[Remind for Youth Updates—>Contact Pastor Andrew](#)

**Children's Discipleship Director—Pam Russell**  
pam@GracePointAtlantic.com

**Senior Ministries Director—Dick Nichols**



***To our guests—Thank you for joining us! We're delighted  
you chose to worship with us! We'd love to meet you,  
answer any questions and give you a welcome gift at our  
Welcome Table in the Fellowship Hall.***

## **Healthy Practices for Worship**

- The use of a face covering or mask is welcome but not required at our programs and services. If you are more comfortable wearing one, please feel free to do so.
- Overflow seating is available in the Fellowship Hall for those who would like to watch the service in a more spread out setting.
- If you are feeling sick or have a fever, please join us for worship from home via the livestream on our YouTube channel.



**Series:** READING OUR HEARTS  
**Sermon:** *The Right Sort of Soil*  
**Scripture:** Luke 8:4-15  
**Speaker:** Pastor Don McLean  
**Sunday:** April 24, 2022

Our response to \_\_\_\_\_ flows from  
the \_\_\_\_\_ of our hearts.

1. a \_\_\_\_\_ Heart that \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word
2. a \_\_\_\_\_ Heart that \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word
3. a \_\_\_\_\_ Heart that \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word
4. a \_\_\_\_\_ Heart that \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word

## Additional Announcements and Upcoming Events

**Scholarship available!** The John R. Bierbaum Memorial Ministry Scholarship is being offered for the Fall 2020 academic term. Applications can be picked up at the Church Office through the month of May and are due May 29, 2022.

**Needed:** Two or more ladies to shop for the nursery (to be reimbursed). Contact Pam Russell.

**The Friday morning Bible study group** welcomes ladies as we begin the **Gospel of John!** We meet at 9 am at **Donna Wood's** home. We are using the online Gospel Coalition, so there will be no books purchased. **Come join us!**

**Please join us for a Fellowship Coffee** today after the worship service. This is a time to visit, make friends and meet new people. Care Team 6 is hosting.

**Table Top Game Night:** Tabletop, board, card games and other activities. Bring your favorite game, bring a snack, bring a friend. All ages welcome. Church Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 30, 6:30 pm—10:30-ish. For details, call or text Devon Bretey at 712-340-3500.

**GriefShare Class:** If you are interested in being part of a GriefShare class, please contact Heidi Hinman at 243-5492.

**Our church is in need of loaner vehicles** for the Life Action Summit conference in May. If you have a vehicle you would loan May 7-20 please contact Dick Nichols. 712 249 2023

**Operation Christmas Child needs you!** OCC offers the opportunity to be a part of a global evangelism outreach, impacting millions of children around the world each year, right here in Atlantic! We are looking for a new Drop Off Leader for Operation Christmas Child, and are asking you to prayerfully consider being part of this ministry. Please talk to Jeff or Paula Osegard to get more information.

**Please check** your email and the church Facebook page regularly for updates from the church about programs, etc. If you have subscribed to our all-church e-mail list, but aren't receiving our e-mails, please check your spam/junk folder and verify that church@gracepointatlantic.com is in your address book/contacts. If you are not subscribed and would like to be, please e-mail the church office at church@gracepointatlantic.com and request the link to sign up.

## What is a Pastoral Sabbatical?

The concept of a pastoral sabbatical comes from the pattern we see in Scripture for Rest and Renewal. In Genesis 1, the Lord set the example for us by ceasing from His work on the seventh day of creation. He then made Sabbath rest a regular requirement for His people, commanding them to observe the Sabbath Day (one day out of every seven; see Ex 20:8-11) and the Sabbath Year (one year out of every seven; see Lev 25:1-5). We have structured our sabbatical policy to reflect this Biblical principle.

The sabbatical is not a time of extended vacation. The pastor is accountable to the Board of Elders for how he uses this time. The Board approves a sabbatical proposal before the sabbatical begins, and the pastor reports back to the Elders when it is completed.

We believe the time provided during a sabbatical will allow our pastors to pursue a plan of personal and professional renewal and growth. This in turn will enhance their service to the Lord and to our church. In addition, we believe the pastor's time away will provide opportunities for others within our body to express their gifts and assist in meeting the ministry needs of our church.

## Pastors & Elders

### **Andrew Johnson**

Associate Pastor

### **Curt Behrends**

Building & Grounds

### **Larry Hinman**

Missions

### **Joe Hoye**

Evangelism & Outreach

### **Paul Iekel**

Christian Education

### **Dan Rossell**

Finance

### **Chad Williams**

Chairman & Worship

**1 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street \* Atlantic, IA**  
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**GracePointAtlantic.com**

# Pastoral Sabbatical Summer 2022

Donald McLean  
Senior Pastor

**GRACEPOINT**  
CHURCH

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Do other churches offer sabbaticals?**

A growing number of Bible-believing churches are appreciating the value of granting their pastors sabbatical time. Both the Evangelical Free Church of America and the Central District of the EFCA recommend that EFCA churches implement a sabbatical policy for their pastoral staff.

### **Why this summer?**

Our sabbatical policy provides for up to three months of sabbatical time after every six years of service to our church, with the sabbatical to be taken at some point during the seventh year. Pastor Don has served as our Senior Pastor since 2008. His last sabbatical was in the summer of 2015.

### **How long will this sabbatical be?**

Pastor Don's sabbatical will run from May 23, 2022 through August 28, 2022. This stretch of time includes 2 weeks of regular vacation time.

### **So what will Pastor Don actually be doing during the sabbatical?**

Don and the Elders have identified three primary goals for this sabbatical:

1. *Writing Project*: Don's main goal for this sabbatical is to write a draft manuscript of a devotional book based on 1 John.
2. *Renew, Refresh, and Recharge*: They say you can't draw water from a dry well, and the principle applies spiritually too. Don will be using this time to replenish his own "spiritual well" for the next season of ministry.
3. *Ministry Projects*: Don also hopes to work on a couple of big picture projects for our church that have been difficult to get to in the regular course of ministry.

### **Who will preach this summer?**

We are planning a team approach to the pulpit ministry. Pastor Andrew will be taking 5-6 Sundays to preach through Jonah. Other weeks will be covered by guest speakers, some of our Global Partners, and several of our own Elders and other men from our church.

### **Who will cover Pastor Don's other responsibilities while he is on sabbatical?**

The Elders, Pastor Andrew, and the ministry staff will cover Don's pastoral and administrative responsibilities as needed during these three months. If the need should arise for a funeral, we will work with the family and funeral home to ensure a pastor is available.

### **Who should I contact if I have a crisis and need pastoral care?**

Please feel free to call on any of our Elders or Pastor Andrew. GracePoint is an Elder-led church, and we encourage you to call on any of these men if you want prayer or spiritual counsel.

### **Will our church be in a "holding pattern" during this time?**

Not at all! We are grateful for the leadership of our pastors. But we believe that the Body of Christ does the work of the ministry (Eph 4:11-12). Our summer ministry season will look much the same as it usually does, and we will enter the fall with a recharged Senior Pastor.

*Will you set aside time to*

**SEEK GOD TOGETHER?**

*Mark your calendars  
for the upcoming*

**LIFE ACTION EVENT**

**May 8-15**



Sunday Mornings 9:15 am  
Sunday—Thursday Evenings 6:00 pm  
GracePoint Church  
1 E. 22nd St. in Atlantic  
[www.GracePointAtlantic.com/summit](http://www.GracePointAtlantic.com/summit)



Here's another way that you can help out with the **Life Action Summit Conference!** If it doesn't work for you to be a host home or loan a vehicle, there is another opportunity for you to support this ministry! GracePoint is responsible for feeding the Life Action team for some meals, and snacks, and you can sign up and bring in some food items that will help us to provide this during their time here.

We will have a sign up sheet on the cart, just like the Wednesday Night Meals, where you can sign up, and bring your items in **by Sunday, May 8th.** If you have any questions, please talk to Christy Cunningham, Paula Osegard or Cindy Nichols.



*LifeAction.org*