

September 27, 2016

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

In this year of *Sharing Grace*, we want to commit ourselves to following the way of Jesus, by sharing God's grace with those around us and loving our neighbor as ourselves. Today, I want to suggest two practical ways you can do this:

First, we cannot love our neighbor as ourselves, if we do not even know our neighbors, if we do not know the person living right outside our door, so over the next week, introduce yourself to someone you see every day but whose name you don't know. It might be someone at church, or someone in your apartment building, or neighborhood, or at work. Just go right up to them and say, "I have seen you around, but I don't know your name. And, I want to introduce myself."

Second, here at Grace, we have begun holding a series of conversations about racial injustice in this country, and I invite you to participate. Our next discussion is this coming Thursday, September 29 at 6:00 pm in the Rose Room, just off the sanctuary in the church building. The gathering will be an opportunity to share your perspective, listen to others and imagine how Grace Church might work toward justice and equality. If you would like to be part of the conversation, but this Thursday night does not fit into your schedule, please let me know, and I will make sure you can be involved in our discussions, planning and work.

See you in church,
Andrew