



April 27, 2017

Greetings friends,

I've been out of the office a couple days this week with one of the worst colds I can ever remember. Thank goodness it didn't hit last week is about the most positive thing I can think of to say at this point. Please note the messages in the black framed box from two of our Dear Ones who have been battling some really serious illnesses.

This week at Grace – This Sunday week is Confirmation Sunday and our Confirmands will be leading most of our service – including the message! Pastor Fred will lead them through their Rite of Confirmation and our Prayer time, but otherwise these talented young people are in charge. The confirmands are Zane Haglund, Jenna Hoskins, Kaitlyn Jacobson and Dylan Kahl, Dylan will deliver the message, *Taking Up Our Cross*, which is inspired by Matthew 16:21-25.

ALL CHURCH WORK DAYS

4:00-6:00 pm Friday, April 28

9:00-Noon Saturday, April 29

Please bring appropriate tools for the chores you choose to work on – inside or outside.

Claudia Pauk and Cathy Hermanson are looking for special music for our Summer Sunday Worship services. If you would like to share a song or know of someone who would like to share music this summer, please let Claudia or Cathy know!

Do you have kids who would be interested in attending Bible Camp this summer? Brochures are available on the north Narthex hall table The Church Council recently voted to pay 50% of camp tuition for local Grace students going to a UMC camp. 25% will be paid if attending another church camp.

Graduation is coming up next month – please let us know if you have a graduate – high school, trade school, college, advanced degree so that we may recognize them on our **Baccalaureate Sunday, May 21st**. We've received a couple graduation announcements (invitations) that I've attached so you'll know the details and can attend the parties.

Youth Group Leaders Needed

We are looking for two dynamic youth group leaders for the 2017-2018 school year. We have had eleven youth participating this year and expect a few more to join in next year. It's pretty cool that some youth have been coming to Youth Group that we aren't seeing at other times. Youth Group can certainly evolve from what we started this year. Bring your vision and energy to this very important ministry! Youth Group is led by a Youth Council, so there will be a few organizational meetings for that group. Currently, Youth Group meets one Wednesday each month and one leader would serve on the Christian Education committee as well.

We need two-deep leadership for all youth activities at Grace United Methodist Church. If you have a passion to work with our youth, then recruit your spouse or a friend and make it a time of fun and fellowship! Contact Shelley Hart (515-291-8332) with questions or to volunteer.

Sunday school teachers for 2017-18 - Please prayerfully consider teaching one of our Sunday school classes next school year. We are looking to fill positions in the following sections:

Early Childhood – 1st Grade

2nd – 4th Grade

5th-7th Grades

High School

Please contact Education Chair Gini Michel by phone (733-4123), by email (gem47@mediacombb.net), or catch her personally after our worship service if you'd like to take a turn teaching our young ones.

Thank you to all of you who have sent well-wishes, cards, flowers and especially, sent up prayers for our mother, Jeanne Hohneke. She continues to work to recover from her strokes – still at Mary Greeley Medical Center. We're all hopeful she'll be able to return to her home soon!

Family of Jeanne Hohneke

Well we had an apt yesterday in Iowa City with the Oncologist. We found out that my surgeons thoughts on Che-mo and the Oncologist were two different routes of treatment. The Oncologist is promoting a more aggressive approach to treatment. I had hope they would have started treatment yesterday but that didn't happen. He want me to wait a couple weeks yet and get more healed up. to Dr. in Ames and I'm waiting for a call for an apt He also has agree for me to take treatment here in Ames, Iowa which is only 12 miles instead of 157 miles one way. He is forwarding hsi recommendation for Treatment to Dr. in Ames and I'm waiting for a call for an apt. to get it set up.He was impress though at how well I was doing and how I felt.

I want to again Thank everyone for your prayers and concerns. I believe the power of your prayers have brought Betty & I through this time of need.

God's Blessing to you all

Ray Hults

Are you interested in attending Vacation Bible School this summer? St. Petri has invited Grace Church to participate in a Cross-Generational VBS weekend. CG VBS is for ALL ages – children, parents, grandparents, neighbors and friends. It's one large family with bible study, music, games and crafts. It will be held at St. Petri at:

Friday evening, June 23 from 6-8:30 with supper

Saturday morning, June 24 from 9-11 a.m with a snack

Sunday, June 25 – share your experiences during church

To register let Gini Michel (gem47@mediacombb.net 733-4123) or the church office know. **Registration deadline is June 2.**

Cedar Place residents invite you to a joint Bake Sale/Plant Sale on Saturday, May 6th from 8:30 – 11:30am at Cedar Place 812 Cedar St. Story City. Bake sale proceeds will help us to purchase annual flowers to decorate our patio and the butterfly garden. Our “babies” for the plant sale are slipped from “mother plants” belonging to residents. We have some unusual plants to sell. Hope to see you on the 6th!

THE HISTORIC STORY THEATER Presents a Special Engagement of this Christian-Themed Film! Saturday & Sunday, April 29-30 - *4:30 p.m.* Admission only \$4 For more info. Call 515/733-4551 or 733-4319

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:: Jeanne Hohneke; Ray Hults; George Sellers; Lois Johnson; Al Rau; Jordan Gertsen; Rich Iverson (friend of Kurt Carlson); Patty Geer; Carolyn Bostwick; Cooper Leeman

News You Can Use

Sunday, April 30 – Confirmation Sunday

9:15 AM Worship

10:15 AM Reception for Confirmands

10:30 AM Sunday school

Monday, May 1

6:30 PM Education

Wednesday, May 3

5:45 PM Youth

7:00 PM Choir

8:00 PM Bell Choir

Sunday, May 7 – MUSIC Sunday

9:15 AM Worship

10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM Sunday school

**Faithfully,
Cathy**