



# The Grace Church Visitor

Grace United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 67, 624 Elm Ave.  
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[www.grace-umc.com](http://www.grace-umc.com)

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*Office Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.*

## We're Proud of Our Youth at Grace!

Pictures shared by Malinda Warwick



Chase singing the National Anthem at an Iowa Cubs game in July! He did a wonderful job – congratulations to Chase and his family!

The Visitor is a monthly publication of  
Grace UMC, Story City.

If you would like to  
\* add, change or remove your name from  
our mailing or e-mailing list

\*correct your address

\*submit news to be published in  
*The Visitor...*

Mail us the information  
Grace UMC; 624 Elm Ave.

P.O. Box 67 OR

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(515) 733-4712 OR

email us:

[office@grace-umc.com](mailto:office@grace-umc.com)

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*Grace = God's Riches At Christ's Expense*

## August Birthdays



Conner Blue	8-1
Amy Harlan	8-1
Karen Keech	8-3
Barbara Wheeler	8-3
Marjorie Gookin	8-5
John Gookin	8-6
Valerie Hubert	8-15
Dwain Watts	8-15
Jake Cook	8-16
Chris Feil	8-17
Janet Richardson	8-18
Mychal Spencer	8-19
Lynn Lounsberry	8-21
Willie Lykins	8-24
Donyel Caruth	8-24
Dorothy Carbaugh	8-25
Mary Loupee	8-25
Sharon Matson	8-27
Craig Jensen	8-27
Mark Gookin	8-27
Jenessa Brown	8-29
Tatum Lester	8-29

*If we're missing a birthday please accept our apologies and let us know so we can update our records!*

## August Lectionary

### August 6

Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15;  
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

### August 13

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b;  
Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

### August 20

Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133;  
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15(10-20) 21-28

### August 27

Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124;  
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

**Deadline for submitting Visitor information is the 20th of each month. Information for the weekly bulletin and This Week at Grace is due in the office by noon on Wednesdays.**

## From Our Pastor Fred Darbonne



When you read this I will have just finished a week in Syracuse, New York, where I will co-facilitate an Interim Ministry Network training. Training participants will be pastoral colleagues from a variety of denominations. My co-facilitator will be a Jewish rabbi. While participating in this first phase of training, these pastors will be exploring their interest in working with congregations going through various transitions or undergoing some form of congregational development. Of course, I applaud them and wonder why anyone would not want to do the work we do. (Yes, really; our work is very cool!)

I've been part of the Interim Ministry Network for seven years, and on the faculty for two. I love working with congregational leaders from such a wide range of traditions. The variety of experiences and backgrounds make our mutual learning very rich. I think I probably learn as much, if not more, than the training participants every time I lead a class. The old adage is true: "If you want to learn, teach."

A common theme I notice is that no matter the tradition of the congregation, we all experience the same things. We have the same challenges. We all have resources to find solutions and overcome obstacles, we just need to recognize them. It is also comforting to be reminded that we are still people everywhere we go, and we act the same way because we are people. I would go as far as to say that there are no "problem" congregations. There are only congregations where the solutions to present challenges have not yet been discovered through mutual work and discernment.

Our congregation, led by the congregational development team, has accomplished a great deal in our work together. On Sunday, August 6, we will recognize the team as we finish our work, briefly discuss the planning we have done and the goals we are steadily accomplishing, and have a potluck fellowship after the service. I tried to get a catered barbecue rib dinner, but I got vetoed. At least we tried. The potluck will be great. Cathy has already distributed the sign up sheet; if you haven't yet seen it please contact her.

If you would like a finalized copy of our congregational study and action plan, please contact the office and we will get you one. Our congregation should feel very proud of all that it has achieved.

Following this week of training I will take some vacation time and do something fun with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you again on the 6<sup>th</sup>. By the way, when I mentioned this to someone they looked pleased and said "Oh good; Finance committee and Church Council will go faster this week."

Unbelievable.

## G.R.A.C.E. Team "R"

### Mike & Christine Marti - chair

Leota Berg, Rod & Sue Bohner, Shauna Check, Jim & Marjorie Dale, Sara Dappen, Darren & Dawn Diehl, Leah Frandson, Allan Frandson, Chuck & Shirley Harreld, Ray & Betty Hulst, Jane Jackson/Fred Larson, Helen Johnson, LeRoy & Priscilla Johnson, Brent & Amy Lester, Kermit Miskell, Robert & Loretta Parker, Arris Richardson, Brian & Janet Richardson, Scott Richardson, Norm & Cindy Spurlock, Brett & Laila Tesdall, Dan & Marilyn Webster, Lonny & Beckey Witthuhn

## New Grandbaby



Kelly Leuschen became a first-time grandmother with the arrival of Avery Elizabeth on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Avery's parents are Jessica and Jon Bolton of Niceville, FL.

## New Address



Dan & Marilyn Webster  
702 Timberland Drive  
Story City, IA 50248

## Choir Begins Again



Please consider this *YOUR* invitation to become part of a joyful ministry at Grace – the Chancel Choir! We are a lively group who enjoys learning and sharing music. Our director is Rhonda Hampton who not only leads an enjoyable rehearsal each week; she also picks out fun music in a variety of styles and with a varied difficulty range. Some of the music is very challenging and some not so much, but the constants are that we are praising God and having fun together as we do so!

We generally sing the first and third Sundays of the month – Sept thru May. Every now and then we pick up a fifth Sunday and a few special services (Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday). We

rehearse in the choir loft in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays beginning August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please join us for fellowship, music and fun!

## Touch of Grace Bells



*Touch of Grace Bells* is an adult hand bell choir led by Judy Brekke. We play the second Sunday of each month, September through April and on Music Sunday the first Sunday in May. If you would like to give playing bells a try, please contact Judy.

The *Touch of Grace Bells* is in the midst of our 40<sup>th</sup> year as a music ministry of Grace Church. Rehearsals after our summer hiatus **begin again at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Our first session will (as has been our practice) begin with the thorough cleaning and polishing all of our bells.

## August Volunteers

**Friday, August 4** - Loretta Parker folds bulletins

### Sunday, August 6

**Liturgist** – Cathy Hermanson

**Greeters** – Cindy Spurlock, Dan & Marilyn Webster

**Ushers** – Rod & Sue Bohner, Loretta Parker  
Communion help



**Friday, August 11** – Loretta Parker folds bulletins

### Sunday, August 13

**Liturgist** – Cheryl Semler

**Greeters** – Cindy Spurlock

**Ushers** – Brett & Laila Tesdall, Beckey & Jori Witthuhn

**Friday, August 18** – Dan & Marilyn Webster fold bulletins

### Sunday, August 20

**Liturgist** – Terry Gustason

**Greeters** – Chuck & Shirley Harreld

**Ushers** – Mike & Christine Marti,  
Fred Larson & Jane Jackson

### **Coffee Fellowship –**

LeRoy & Priscilla Johnson

Dan & Marilyn Webster

Mike & Christine Marti

**Friday, August 25** – LeRoy & Priscilla Johnson fold bulletins

### Sunday, August 27

**Liturgist** – Judy Brekke

**Greeters** – LeRoy & Priscilla Johnson

Ray, Betty & Sarah Hulst

**Ushers** – Christine Marti, Brett & Laila Tesdall



**Newsletter folders - Help needed on Tuesday, August 29th**

## Our Prayers

Claudia Pauk; Chuck Jewell; Denny Michel; Marjorie Gookin; Pam Hillis; Julie Jacobson; Leota Berg; Vivian Whitmore; Jeanne Hohneke; Ray Hults; George Sellers; Lois Johnson; Al Rau; Jordan Gertsen; Rich Iverson (friend of Kurt Carlson); Cooper Leeman

## Our Presence

**Attendance July 2 – July 23:**  
Worship: 290 Total – 73 avg

## Our Gifts

**Offering – July 2 – July 23:**  
**\$11,700.11**

## Our Service

 Thank you to Hubert Bicklehaupt and Duane Matson for taking care of removing the south side Fellowship Hall window wells. (See pictures on p. 5)

 Thank you to Dave Doolittle for doing the lawn mowing at the church this summer!

## Our Witness

 We appreciate our July liturgists Terry Gustason, George Janvrin, Gloria Sampson, and Judy Brekke

 Thank you to all of our July special musicians (Milianna Carlson, Paul Olson, Fred Darbonne and Claudia Pauk, Alan and Paula Sampson and Brad and Suzi Stellmaker, Judy Andrew for their wonderful contributions to our worship services!

## All-Church Potluck



Our All-Church potluck picnic is coming up on Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>! An email was sent out on July 18th with an electronic sign-up sheet for what you plan to bring. If you don't have email and plan to attend, you may let the office know your plans.

As a part of our worship service that morning, we'll be recognizing the special efforts the Congregational Development Team put forth on all of our behalf since the fall of 2015! Their dedication and hard work and determination to listen to and represent all our voices in their work has been appreciated and we want to celebrate their completion of the Congregational Study and the Action Plan our committees have already begun to implement. A new banner that will encourage us in this next phase of our work has been designed by Mike Marti and will be dedicated during the worship service. The potluck meal is part of our celebration.

The potluck is being coordinated by members of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) and volunteers. We hope you'll come together with us to enjoy delicious food, wonderful conversation and an opportunity to say "thanks" to some special fellow members of Grace. Click on the following link to sign up for what you will bring to the meal.

<http://www.perfectpotluck.com/meals.php?t=UPIK6381&v=3d36302b46>

Members of the CDT include: Christine Semler-Blue, Rod Bohner, Denise Carlson, Terry Gustason, Mary Loupee, Sharla Mander, Mike Marti, Linda McVicker, Denny Michel, Pastor Fred Darbonne

## Congregational Study



**If you'd like a copy of the Congregational Study** and the completed Action Plan that will guide our work going forward, please let the office know. The raw data from the surveys we did in the spring is also available upon request. We'd be happy to send you an electronic copy or to print out a hard copy for you.

## District Meetings at Grace



Annual Pastoral Interviews and a training session highlighting changes, etc in Charge Conference report filings will be held at Grace Church on **August 8<sup>th</sup>**. Our District Superintendent, Harlan Gillespie, will be in charge of both events. The individual interviews with pastors in this area of the North Central District will be conducted during the day from 8:30 to 4:30. Then, from **6:00-8:00 p.m.**, DS Gillespie will share information to help explain and simplify the work that needs to be completed before an Annual Charge Conference. The District, beginning last year, is scheduling these conferences to have several churches gather in one place at the same time. Grace UMC has asked to have another individual Charge Conference again this year as we continue our work with Pastor Fred. DS Gillespie has agreed to this request, but a date has not yet been set. Anyone is invited to attend this training session with current Committee chair people respectfully encouraged to do so.

# July Pictures of Grace

Pictures shared by Malinda Warwick, Sharla Mander, Loretta Parker



Duane and Hubert hard at work, assisted by Raejean



Stacy, Jori and Amber do Camp Wesley Woods!



Paul Olson on his Dobro.



Milianna, Pastor Fred, and Claudia share a song.



Brad & Suzi Stellmaker and Alan & Paula Sampson shared music with us.

## Church Council Notes

### Unofficial Minutes July 24, 2017 meeting

**Present:** Loretta Parker (Chair), Tim Tryon (Finance), Shelley Hassebrock (SPRC); Jim Hassebrock (Trustees); Terry Gustason (Treasurer/CDT), Cheryl Semler (Worship), Cathy Hermanson (Communications/rec. secretary)

**Loretta offered a prayer and opened the meeting.**

**Tim moved the June minutes be accepted. Motion passed.**

**Finance:** Tim reported our committees are doing a good job of getting their budgets turned in and it looks like everyone has thought carefully about them. Budget should be complete in the next month or so. Summer giving is slower, but we continue to hold our own. In July a \$10K gift was received to apply to our 2015 apportionment debt. Finance is hopeful that we will be able to retire the rest of 2015 debt by the end of the year, but focusing on meeting 2017 budget concerns.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Fred left copies of our *Council Strategic Priorities, Goals and Action Steps for 2017-19*. Members were asked to review the hand-out and to plan on making progress reports from respective committees to Council in coming months.

**CDT –** Terry reported the Action Plan had been approved last month and it was turned in to the District office. A brief presentation of the Plan, recognition of CDT members and the dedication of a new banner is planned for our worship service on August 6<sup>th</sup>. An All-Church Potluck will follow the service.

#### **Committee Reports: Ministry Areas**

**Worship:** Cheryl reported Worship Committee didn't meet in July.

**Christian Education:** Sunday school materials have been ordered. Expecting a smaller group of kids for Sunday School this year.

**Missions:** Will meet in August.

**UMW:** Terry reported the UMW July Breakfast meeting was well attended and the officers provided a tasty meal. No meeting in August.

#### **Committee Reports: Administrative Area**

**SPRC:** Shelley H reported the job description project has been completed. Their current project is to develop an Employment Policy. Pastor Fred is away this last week in July and into August for first professional development training and then some vacation time with family. SPRC is helping put together the August 6<sup>th</sup> potluck meal.

**Leadership Development Committee:** Pastor Fred sent a report highlighting early work of the LDT citing their efforts in the area of Church Council concerns (Chair, Rec Secretary, Lay Leader, Alt Lay Leader, Treasurer, Lay Member to Annual Conference and an Alternate).

**Trustees:** Jim reported Trustees haven't yet received the bill for the roof. Because we had some interior damage (choir room/narthex ceiling repair and carpet clean) that the company is responsible for seeing to, billing has been delayed. The Trustee budget request will be \$2450 higher in 2018 – looking into possible parsonage maintenance needs with new pastor next summer, AC replacement also a possibility. Hubert Bicklehaupt and Duane Matson removed the concrete window wells from the south side windows outside Fellowship Hall. The concrete had pulled away from the building. Landscaping is planned for the area.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:20.**

**Next meeting: Monday, August 28, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Cathy Hermanson, Recording Secretary





## PROPERTY TURNS INTO INCOME – CASE STUDY



Miranda lived in the family home where she and her spouse had raised their three children. After her spouse passed away, Miranda found it increasingly difficult to care for her property.

Miranda's grandson came often to visit and help with chores around the house. On one such visit, he helped Miranda "surf" the Internet. She enjoyed reading the weekly finance updates and donor stories on her favorite charity's planned giving website. On one such visit, Miranda learned that she could make a gift of her home to the charity and receive income for life.

**Miranda:** I called the gift planner and asked her how a charitable remainder trust works. She said that when the time came for me to move out of my home, I could give it to my favorite charity and set up a special kind of trust. The trust would provide me with income for the rest of my life and I would receive a tax deduction for my gift.

Miranda thought that she might want to move to a condominium with less upkeep. Her financial advisor reviewed the plan and said that the income she received from the charitable remainder trust would be enough to cover her living expenses.

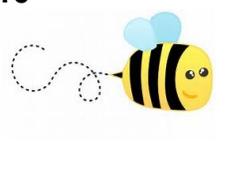
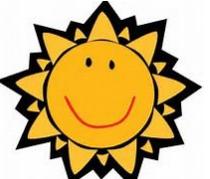
**Miranda:** After visiting real estate websites with my grandson, I found a condominium nearby that was perfect for me. I called the gift planner and said that I was ready to move out of my home and set up the charitable trust.

Miranda was thrilled that she could turn her property into income to meet her future needs and receive a charitable deduction for her gift.

Grace's Endowment Committee encourages you to consider the various ways your giving can help to **Endow Grace**, preserving the future of our Church.

Please contact the church office at 515-733-4712 or [office@grace-umc.com](mailto:office@grace-umc.com) or visit our website at <http://www.grace-umc.com/endowgrace.aspx> .

# August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 	3	4 	5  Johnson Reunion
6  9:15 Worship Dwain Watts sings All-Church Pot-luck BBQ	7  6:30 - Education	8  <i>Grace hosts pastoral interview meetings 8:30-4:30</i> <i>Grace hosts Charge Conf. training 6:00-8:00</i>	9	10  	11	12
13  8:00 Trustees 9:15 Worship Tanner Blue sings	14  5:30 SPRC 7:00 Worship	15  <b>AUGUST</b> 	16	17	18	19  
20  9:15 Worship The Brethren lead worship 10:15 Coffee Fellowship	21    6:30 Communications	22	23    7:00 Choir begins 8:00 Bells begin	24	25	26
27  8:15 Missions meeting 9:15 Worship Ray Hults sings	28  5:30 Finance 7:00 Council	29  	30  7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	31	Looking Ahead: Sept. 4 – Labor Day Sept. 10 – Rally Sunday  	

