



The Grace Church Visitor

Grace United Methodist Church
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Office Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Hospitality at Grace!

Pictures shared by Cathy Hermanson



Our Potato Cake Bakers and a Scandinavian welcome to Grace UMC!

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

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What's Inside

Page 2 – July Birthdays, July Lectionary Readings, From Our Pastor
Page 3 – July Volunteers, New Baby, Thank You
Page 4 – Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, Witness, Youth, UMW
Page 5 – Education News, All Church Picnic, Apportionment History
Page 6 – Pictures of Grace
Page 7 – Pictures of Grace
Page 8 – Report of Lay Delegate to Annual Conference
Page 9 – Report continued
Page 10 – Church Council Notes
Page 11 – Endowment Article
Page 12 – July Calendar of Events

Grace = God's Riches At Christ's Expense

July Birthdays



Dorothy Appelgate	7-1
Julie Jacobson	7-1
Jeanne Hohneke	7-3
Elizabeth Rickerl	7-3
Dave McVicker	7-9
Sheri Allen	7-10
Stephanie Fournier	7-14
Cale Gregori	7-14
Jim Hassebrock	7-15
Suzi Hess	7-16
Jarod Hart	7-16
Leota Berg	7-19
Joann Shelton	7-19
Shelley Hart	7-19
Parker Witthuhn	7-19
Natalie Rasmussen	7-20
Cade Diehl	7-21
Malinda Warwick	7-23
Kate Feil	7-25
Gloria Sampson	7-27
Denise Carlson	7-27
Erma Schaeffer	7-29
Scott Richardson	7-30

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

July Lectionary

July 2

Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13;
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

July 9

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 72;
Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 16

Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112;
Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23

Genesis 28:10-19a Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24;
Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30

Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b;
Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

From Our Pastor

Fred Darbonne

June 2017



As I write this on Saturday, June 24, it feels like I've been gone a very long time, though it's only been a couple of weeks. The month started with intensity as we completed our congregational study and action plan. The congregational study part, which includes summaries of the surveys you completed, will be an important communication tool to the district superintendent, the conference, and potential pastoral appointees of who the congregation sees itself to be, the pastoral leadership you expect, and a record of your learning over the past three years.

The action plan will guide our work as a church and provide a structured path to continuing our significant accomplishments. I can sense our CDT and committee folks breathing a collective sigh of relief to have that planning work completed. You should feel very good about itself for all that you have achieved. Not every congregation stays the course as you have.

At our annual conference in Des Moines we heard from our new bishop, Laurie Haller. I believe you will appreciate her wisdom and down to earth leadership style. I think our conference is very fortunate to have her assigned as our bishop. You may be interested in learning more about her by following her blog, *Leading from the Heart*, at www.lauriehaller.org

This week I attended the Interim Ministry Network annual conference in Baltimore. I was particularly impressed by one of our plenary speakers, Rev. Susan Beaumont. Her topic was on leading through liminal space. A "liminal space" is a transitional space, a place where we are between one situation or state of being and the new one that is still ahead. We've left where we were, but haven't yet reached the other shore, and we grapple with uncertainty. Incredible growth can happen in these places as we are invited to rely on God in new ways, discover resources we didn't know we had, and become creative as we apply our learning to find solutions we may not have considered otherwise.

I had three weeks of vacation left this conference year, and I was forced with a choice between using it before July 1, or losing it. (Of course I used it!) I've been finishing some work I needed to do, and catching up on my reading. I indulged my love of art by visiting the museums in Kansas City with family, and hanging out at the Des Moines Art Festival where I picked up a couple of nice finds. I'll go see my boy in Cedar Rapids, who just came back from Camp Courageous this week, and attend some other events. I admit that I visited Baltimore's Inner Harbor with a colleague, where we had dinner at a second floor table that had a clear view of the entire harbor. I also took the train on a free evening to Washington DC, and hiked around the Capitol and the National Mall. This seemed to me to be good stewardship of opportunity!

See you soon.

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

Gini & Denny Michel, Chair

Sheri Allen, Judy Andrew, Dorothy Appelgate, David & Teresa Baker, Hubert & Raejean Bicklehaupt, Chris & Kate Feil, Mark & Rose Flaspohler, Duane & Stephanie Fournier, Charlie Fournier, Tori Fournier, John & Karen Gookin, Eric & Shelley Hart, Kevin & Candi Holm, Lois Johnson, Annie Larson, Janet Larson, Lorijo Lounsberry, Caleb Michel, George Sellers, Chuck & Cheryl Semler, Jerry Spencer, Kylie Spencer, Dwain & Erica Watts, Vivian Whitmore, Jim & Alyce Wirth

New Baby



Congratulations to brand-new grandparents, Jim and Shelley Hassebrock on the arrival of their 1st grandson, *Wyatt Daniel Hassebrock* born to Joel and Meagan on June 5th in Papillion, NE.

Thank You!

Grace Church Family,

We want to thank you for welcoming our family with open arms this year. You have loved and encouraged us so well. Our children have enjoyed getting involved and we have loved getting to reconnect with you. We look forward to future visits to Iowa and will be excited to see all of you again.

Love,
C & K Taylor and family

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.



July Volunteers

Sunday, July 2

Liturgist – Terry Gustason
Greeters – Caleb Michel, Cheryl Semler
Ushers – Gini Michel, Stephanie Fournier

Thursday, July 6 – Shelley Hart fold bulletins

Sunday, July 9

Liturgist – George Janvrin
Greeters – Lorijo Lounsberry
Ushers – Kevin and Candi Holm
Hubert and Raejean Bicklehaupt

Thursday, July 13 – Shelley Hart fold bulletins

Sunday, July 16

Liturgist – Gloria Sampson
Greeters – Caleb Michel, Lorijo Lounsberry
Ushers – Gini Michel, Stephanie Fournier
Coffee Fellowship –
Gini Michel, Alyce Wirth, Karen Gookin
Candi Holm

Thursday, July 20 – Cheryl Semler fold bulletins

Sunday, July 23

Liturgist – Cathy Hermanson
Greeters –
Ushers – Hubert and Raejean Bicklehaupt
Jim and Alyce Wirth

Thursday, July 27 – Cheryl Semler fold bulletins

Sunday, July 30

Liturgist – Skylar Warwick
Greeters – Caleb Michel, Cheryl Semler
Ushers – Gini Michel
Jim and Alyce Wirth

July 27 - Newsletter folders – Cheryl Semler, Gini Michel

Our Prayers

Denny Michel; Marjorie Gookin; Julie Jacobson; Barry Janvrin; Vivian Whitmore; Leota Berg; Barbara Wheeler; Chuck Jewell; Jeanne Hohneke; Ray Hults; George Sellers; Lois Johnson; Al Rau; Jordan Gertsen; Rich Iverson; Cooper Leeman


Our Presence


Attendance May 29 – June 25:
Worship: 350 Total – 70 avg


Our Gifts


Offering – May 29 – June 5:
\$10,923.65


Our Service

 Thank you to our various committee members who met for extra sessions to set goals their particular areas of our 2018 Action Plan.


 \$1,544.76 was raised with our Scandi Days Pork Sandwich line – we served 350 people. The money will go to our new roof fund.


 Our Scandi Bake Sale brought in \$1,030.25 and the Pie and Ice Cream Social realized a profit of \$1,395.24. Those funds will go toward UMW missions and projects.


 Thank you to G.R.A.C.E. Team “E” for the treats on June 18th!

 Thank you to those who have been faithfully mowing the church lawn!

Our Witness

 We appreciate our June liturgists Cathy Hermanson, Cheryl Semler, Gloria Sampson, Skylar Blagg

 Thank you to Jerry Spencer and Nate Warwick, for so ably stepping into the pulpit while Pastor Fred is away.

 Many thanks to our talented musicians who shared special talents with us in June: George Janvrin, Isabel Hoskins and Jori Witthuhn, Kent Meier, Chase Blagg

Youth News



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.

News from our UMW

Thank you all members and friends of Grace Church who



contributed to our Pie Social, Sandwich line and Bake Sale. Whether you brought baked goods, pies, made potato cakes, donated money, or worked on Friday at the event, our

UMW could not function without you. And thank you to our youth whose energy and willingness to help was great! We are so grateful for our entire church family and the fact that you always say "yes" when asked to serve in some capacity.

A special thank you to Doug Doolittle who has provided the pork for our sandwich line for several years. His generous donation is so very much appreciated each year.

We also are grateful for the church staff - Cathy, who posted information on TWAG, newsletter, bulletins and Facebook, and who took phone orders on Friday. Dave, who set up tables and assisted where needed. To Pastor Fred, for his always appreciated, prayerful support and who was there with his camera and to help welcome guests.

Our church is fortunate to be able to provide our community with the Friday Scandinavian Days lunch of pulled pork sandwich accompanied with delicious homemade pies and a wonderful bake sale. The tradition carries on thanks to all who volunteer their talents.

UMW committee for Scandinavian Days

Our next regular UMW meeting is our breakfast meeting on July 12 at 8:30. The UMW Board will serve as hostesses. Raejean Bicklehaupt has the Mission Moment.

Education News



We continue our search for Sunday school teachers beginning September 10th. As you may remember, as a part of our Safe Church Policy, we need to have two adults

in every classroom of children. We do have one teacher for each level onboard. What we are looking for is that second adult for each classroom. This means you will be a part of a teaching TEAM, not doing it solo. For many, this makes the prospect a lot more appealing. The easy-to-follow Sunday school curriculum we use is already purchased and will be arriving at the church soon, so the worry of what you would need to teach is lifted. Anyone who attends worship on a regular basis has seen what delightful children we have here at Grace, Won't you please consider stepping forward to help with their Christian education in the coming school year? Contact Gini Michel (Sunday school Superintendent) if you are willing to lend a hand,

All-Church Picnic Aug. 6



On Sunday, August 6th following our worship service, we're planning an All-Church pot-luck BBQ! This is to celebrate the very good work

our Congregational Development Team (CDT) has put in on our behalf since Pastor Fred's earliest days with us in May of 2015. These exceptional members of our congregation have met regularly and worked hard to represent all of us as they have gone through a variety of exercises and intensive study to help our church family. They have conducted a couple of surveys and have made presentations at worship services to keep us "in the loop". Their recently completed Congregational Study and the 2018 Action Plan will be useful tools not only for our committee work, but for the Conference to use as they begin the search for our new pastor who is due to arrive July 1, 2018.

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.

Mark your calendar and please plan to attend the pot-luck BBQ on August 6th!

Grace Church Apportionment History

As the first half of 2017 ends the Finance Committee would like to update you on the current status of apportionment payments. Below are listed the amounts and payments as to date for 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. We hope this will be of assistance to you as you plan for your giving the rest of 2017.

2017	Total 2017 Apportionments	Paid to Date	To Be Paid
	\$27,503.00	\$11,862.60	\$15,640.40
2016	Total 2016 Apportionments	Paid to Date	To Be Paid
	\$28,535.00	Paid in Full	None
2015	Total 2015 Apportionments	Paid to Date	To Be Paid
	\$31,605.00	\$15,628.91	\$15,976.09
2014	Total 2014 Apportionments	Paid to Date	To Be Paid
	\$33,748.00	\$10,709.70	23,038.30

Pictures of Grace

Shared by Malinda Warwick, Sharla Mander, Amber Hoskins



June Pictures of Grace

Pictures shared by Fred Darbonne, Cathy Hermanson, Christine Semler-Blue





Report of the Lay Delegate to IA 2017 Annual Conference

George Janvrin Saturday, June 10 – Monday, June 12 Des Moines, IA

Towards the end of the first day I was becoming irritated at all the non-business items – singing, praying, worship services, rituals. And I saw that these were going to continue throughout the next two days. If only business items were dealt with then this conference could be completed in one day. But then an obvious truth hit me – this wasn't a regular business meeting. Along with being that it was also a gathering of Christians making a prayerful, heartfelt attempt to discern what work God had planned for us in this world. After that I felt better about the worship items. It was like having Sunday services each day!

The theme of the conference was 'Creating Difference Makers'. The ongoing vision/mission is 'transforming the world by making disciples for Christ'. Think about someone who made a positive difference in your life. Think about how by being a Christian you yourself can make a positive difference in someone's life.

Our new Bishop is Laurie Haller, coming from the Michigan Conference. She's spirited, confident, prayerful, calm. She'll make a great Bishop for us.

Her major sermon was 'Will you bear the Cross or just wear the Cross?' Wearing a cross is all well and good, but the real power would be to bear the work of Christ. That type of 'bearing' is Voluntary, not the inherent crosses we bear just because we are humans – pain, loss, death. This bearing the Cross for Christ is Sacrificial, having us make conscious decisions to further Christ's work regardless of our time, ridicule from others, even our lives. I myself am not good at that.

Like our local church, the Conference has specific missions and committees.

These missions include:

- Working with/protecting immigrants, especially undocumented aliens. Don't say illegal aliens. Words create. They can create rifts or relationships.
- Tiny house project for homeless in Detroit, MI.
- Bishop's food drive for children when not in school.
- Support for Nigerians wanting to be ministry trained in one of our IA UMC-related colleges.

The horrific reality is that the Conference has more committees than our local church! The conference lay delegates really have little power. There isn't enough time to understand what the committees recommended in writing, much less some motion made at the conference itself.

If interested in Conference missions/committees discuss these with Pastor Fred or a similar local committee; or Google the UMC website.

The most moving item for me happened on the last day, right before adjournment. The implicitly recognized undercurrent of the conference was the 'inclusion of gays' issue. Delegates would get up to the mike and say something like, 'How can we consider motion 1234 on page 132 when it's obviously contradictory to policy 5678?'.

Remember that United Methodists are methodical. Everything has a number. I looked up the references and they were about inclusion. After that when someone veiled their comments in numbers I knew that it was about inclusion. And they implied that ministers and members would leave churches in droves if gays were included. One even implied that the Conference even *considering* becoming more inclusive was a valid reason for a church to withhold all of its apportionment payments for years.

During meal breaks at the Events Center and even in other restaurants it was easy for me overhear conversations and realize that they were conference delegates and even realize by minor phrases that they were sometimes discussing the inclusion issue. At my hotel restaurant I even butted in on 2 women at another table and we had a 10 minute conversation since I overheard a minor comment that I knew was about inclusion. Sitting with delegates at the Event Center concession tables they or I would ask questions like, 'What's the most interesting thing for you so far at conference?' and the huge majority of the time the inclusion issue would be brought up by others than myself. Fortunately everyone with whom I talked personally was willing to have a prayerful, open-minded, rational discussion about inclusion, regardless of which side they currently endorsed.

The Conference is well aware of the divisiveness of this issue so they brought in a trainer specifically versed in bringing people together in a calm, respectful way to discuss contentious items. The major technique for this was a 'peace circle'. The delegates were put into many small groups, usually mostly strangers with each other. Then

a 'talking token' was passed around to each delegate in turn so that each had a chance to tell their story about 4 questions/items suggested by the trainer, something like 'Who was a major influence in your life.' None of the questions was explicitly about inclusion. It was more of a way of making people comfortable and trusting with each other.

So at the end of the last day, just when I was getting ready to leave, an active, assigned minister stood up and told about his spiritual journey in the church – his parents, his childhood ministers/teachers, his call from God, his supporters and mentors as he worked through the various college degrees and processes to become a minister. Then he outed himself, saying that he's been a 'non-practicing homosexual for thirteen years.' Understand the courage this took. Outing yourself in front of 100s of strangers. And specifically before an organization that's well-known for bringing people up on charges in a matter of hours.

The Bishop's response was an immediate call for an unscheduled prayer. The prayer was compassionate, balanced, reasoned, well-formed, and Bible-based.

She stated three Biblical affirmations:

- God created each of us.
- God loves each of us as we are.
- God has a plan and place for each of us in his worldly and heavenly Kingdoms.

Then she requested God's guidance on how to handle this contentious inclusion issue. Of course, the actual prayer was better, longer, and filled-out.

A week after conference was over an email said that the Conference's Board of Ordained Ministers changed their policy about inclusion. The policy change is that now a potential ministerial candidate will NOT be denied ordination/assignment just because the candidate is gay. That's a big step towards total inclusion. We'll have to see how that actually plays out. And still there is the situation that any minister could deny local church membership to a gay person.

The other major Conference issue was the paying of apportionments. As I noted earlier some delegates had already implied that local churches would stop paying apportionments if inclusion was allowed, which it now somewhat is.

Other comments were:

- Requests for more detailed transparency of budget items and actual costs for various committees and staff.
- Requests for staff reductions.
- Requests for overall Conference budget reductions.
- Requests for details about how effectively the Conference budget money is used.
- Requests for reducing costs by not passing resolutions about soil conservation, landmines, US military costs, etc.

The Budget committee's report addressed all these issues except the last. They said that they realize that the budget is rather high and can hinder some local churches. They trimmed money from some Conference aspects but increased some a bit, making a larger budget than last year.

The last item was addressed by saying that even though our focus is 'transforming the world by making disciples for Christ' we must still address the Biblical calls for honoring/upkeeping the world God made for us.

Now for an unscheduled prayer:

May God give us guidance for the work He wants us to do. May He guide us through contentious issues, which will always be before us. May He show us how to love and respect our neighbors in our communities and around the world. Amen

Respectfully submitted,
George Janvrin



Church Council Notes

Unofficial Minutes June 26, 2017 meeting

Present: Loretta Parker (Chair), Erma Schaeffer (UMW), Tim Tryon (Finance), Pastor Fred, Shelley Hassebrock (SPRC), Jim Hassebrock (Trustees), Cheryl Semler (Worship), Gini Michel (Education), Cathy Hermanson (Communications/rec. secretary)

Loretta offered a prayer and opened the meeting.

Gini moved the April minutes be accepted. Motion passed.

Finance: Tim reported we continued to “hold our own” through May with all items paid. Tim reminded us that summertime giving is usually less. We have money to pay for our new roof on the flat section – will leave details to Trustee chair, to share.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Fred is on vacation until the end of the month, but was present at our meeting. He attended both the Annual Conference and the Interim Ministry Conference this month. While at Annual Conference he did have an opportunity to visit with DS Harlan Gillespie to let him know to expect our congregational report by July 1st. Our DS expressed an interest in meeting with CDT to discuss their work and the processes used. Council members are also invited to attend, hope to schedule something in Aug or Sept.

CDT – Pastor Fred presented the completed Congregational Study and Implementation Plan (all 37 pages!). He noted some additional work he had done to polish to format, add a cover page and a statement at the beginning of the Action Plan. The added statement explained the plan will be monitored by Council on a monthly basis as each group (committee) will be asked to report on progress toward stated goals. Jim moved the Report/Plan be adopted. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Ministry Areas

Worship: Cheryl reported Worship Committee met on June 12th to finalize their budget proposal for 2018. The only alteration to the budget presented last was to add funds to cover annual organ evaluation and maintenance.

Christian Education: Gini reported the education budget proposal for 2018 is complete. We're still looking for adult sponsorship of the Youth program. The Youth have selected leadership and are ready to resume in September. We're still short Sunday school teachers for this fall – we'll have fewer children in our classes this year. Working on materials, Cokesbury is promoting a new, more expensive curriculum, but we hope to continue with Faithweaver.

UMW: Erma reported bills for the Scandinavian Days Social, Sandwich Line and Bake Sale have been paid. The Sandwich Line proceeds of over \$1,500 were sent to the Trustees for the New Roof Fund. The next UMW meeting is a breakfast on July 12th at 8:30 a.m. They are inviting more “seasoned” Grace ladies to attend.

Committee Reports: Administrative Area

SPRC: Shelley H reported continued work on projects and approved Annual Conference expenses for Pastor Fred and our Lay Delegate, George Janvrin.

Leadership Development – Pastor Fred reported this group will begin meeting in July to begin the process of filling positions for 2018.

Trustees/Memorial Committee: Jim reported Trustees hired Central States Roofing to do the new flat roof. \$13,619.76 (plus another \$1,000) was raised to help fund the project. The only insulation that needed replacing was under the steeple which was in pretty bad shape. Some repairs were made to the steeple to stabilize it until more complete, detailed work can be done to refurbish it – bids are being solicited for that project. An inopportune rain shower resulted in some ceiling damage in the narthex and choir room – Central States will take care of the problem since it happened as a result of their mistake. The Trustees have updated their 5-year Plan and are working on their 2018 budget proposal.

Unfinished Business: Pastor Fred reminded all committees that 2018 budget proposals are due to Finance before their July 24th meeting.

New Business: Pastor Fred reminded us Sunday, August 6th is the day set to recognize our dedicated, hard-working CDT at worship and an All-Church potluck BBQ picnic following.

On August 8th, Grace will be the site for DS Gillespie to conduct area annual pastoral interviews from 8:30-4:30. Then, in the evening from 6:00-8:00, DS Gillespie will lead a Charge Conference Training Session.

Pastor Fred shared George Janvrin's lay delegate to Annual Conference report.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting: Monday, June 26, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Hermanson, Recording Secretary





THE RETIREMENT UNITRUST – CASE STUDY



Mary grew up on a farm. When her parents passed away, she inherited the farm.

When Mary was growing up, the farm was out in the country. Now that the city has grown, the farm is within the city limits. Several developers would like to build homes on the farmland.

Mary: We have received modest payments from the farm over the years. I allowed a neighboring farmer to graze his cows on the farm until recently. Since I inherited the farm from my parents several years ago, the value of the farm has greatly increased.








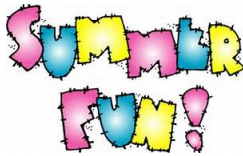
Bill: We checked with our tax advisor and the farm could be sold, but there would be a very large tax to pay. Since it is a good time to sell the land, we would like to sell. And then it would be good to let the sale proceeds grow for about 10 years until we plan to retire. In fact, we are hopeful that we can sell tax free and then allow the proceeds to grow tax free.

Mary: I was excited to learn from our tax advisor that there is a plan that does provide for our retirement. She explained that we could transfer the land into a special trust. Once inside this trust, the farm could be sold tax free and the cash invested for growth. The proceeds would grow tax free inside the trust until we retire. At that time, the payouts would be taxable, but we could have as much as \$900,000 in the trust.

Bill: We will enjoy a very nice retirement. We already have an IRA and are planning to use that for retirement. With the extra income from this retirement trust, we will be able to travel and really enjoy our golden years.

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 or visit our website at <http://www.grace-umc.com/endowgrace.aspx> .

JULY 2017						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 
2 Terry 9:15 Worship Milianna Carlson	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 OFFICE CLOSED 	5	6	7	8
9 George 8:00 Trustees 9:15 Worship Paul Olson	10 5:30 SPRC	11	12 8:30 UMW Breakfast Mtg	13	14 	15
16 Gloria 9:15 Worship Fred and Claudia 10:15 Coffee Fellowship	17 	18	19 Grace hosts Summer Stretch for Local youth 9:00-3:30	20	21	22
23 Cathy 9:15 Worship Alan & Paula Sampson	24 5:30 Finance 7:00 Council	25	26	27 	28	29 
30 Riker 9:15 Worship - Nate Judy Andrew	31	Looking Ahead: August 6 – All Church Pot-luck August 8 – District meetings at Grace UMC all day				

