



June 9, 2017

Greetings friends,

Congratulations to our UMW organizers of the Pie/Sandwich/Bake Sale extravaganza – it was a big success once again! Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the success of this church-wide project. Those of us who just swing through to drop off a couple pies or some baked goods really have no idea just how hard our UMW team works, behind the scenes, to make everything go smoothly. Let me tell you a bit about what I've observed these last few weeks...

Actually, I need to go back a couple months. That's when I heard Erma Schaeffer and Sue Bohner talking about cooking and shredding all the pork brought to them by Doug Doolittle. I don't know how many pounds they had to prepare, but I do know they did the cooking in several batches and that lots of freezer space is required!

Beginning in mid-May through this past week, a parade of supplies (paper products, pickles, condiments, chips, buns, ice cream) began arriving at the church. Erma and Gene Schaeffer would drop a few things off at a time, several times, over that course of time. Sharla Mander and Claudia Pauk delivered some stuff and there may have been others, too. These materials don't just naturally appear, somebody has to think ahead and plan, order, buy and prepare to have them ready. Additionally, Erma printed and delivered posters – I don't know if she had help, but she mailed several to area churches and posted at the different doors here at the church. In similar fashion, Claudia recruited pie bakers and kept a list of who was bringing what and Gloria Sampson was burning up the phone lines recruiting service volunteers for working at the event.

Dave Doolittle hauled tables around to different rooms of the church to accommodate needs for the bake sale and the To Go room. He and Mike Jensen also shifted around tables and chairs in Fellowship Hall to the specifications of the UMW gals and then Patsy and Mike dug out the decorative Scandi table dancers and set them up in the final days before the big event. We know several UMW members and Grace ladies spent a busy morning preparing potato cakes for the bake sale. Terry Gustason and Shirley Frandson spent some extra time organizing the chapel space for the bake sale and then ran the room on Friday morning. Erma and Patsy and, I hope, others set up the service areas with boxes of chips, paper plates, roasters of meat, pickles, napkins, etc.

Dan and Marilyn Webster were spotted early on Friday morning posting the big sign on the lawn between the church and the parsonage, as they have done for years. Then, during the actual event, all these same people could be found among those cutting and plating pies, welcoming diners, working the lines, superintending the elevator, running from space to space with resupply or delivering meal orders; each of them with a smile and a warm-hearted graciousness to our guests. And, I'll bet they all contributed pies and baked goodies as well. Then, there is the clean-up after all the fun. I'm telling you, the Schaeffer's, Jensen's, Webster's, Doug, Sue, Claudia, Gloria, Sharla, Terry, Shirley and Dave are dedicated, hard-working, special souls who can always be found at the center of "big doin's" at Grace UMC. The success we enjoy with our special events can always be traced back to the foresight; organization and love poured into the planning and extra prep done by these extraordinary leaders. We all owe them a huge thank you for their selfless dedication and leadership. They are super heroes of volunteering and we're very lucky to have them!

This week at Grace – With Pastor Fred at Annual Conference this weekend, Jerry Spencer will lead the service for us. His message, "Today is Yesterday's Tomorrow" is inspired by Matthew 28:16-20. Isabel Hoskins and Jori Witthuhn are teaming up to bring us special music and we're looking forward

to that treat. Cheryl Semler will make her debut as liturgist. The Hoskins gals will serve as greeters and Claudia Pauk, Kurt Carlson and Dale & Lynn Henricks are our ushers this week. As always, worship begins at 9:15. We invite you to join us!

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

We wanted to go “bigger, better and beyond” and did we ever!! Our Friday bake sale total plus the “after church” sales on Sunday, June 3 stand at \$1,000!! Thank you to everyone who donated baked goods and/or bought baked goods. The profits from the bake sale will be used by the UMW for mission projects in our church and in our community. We couldn't do this without you so again thank you. And never fear you will hear from us again next year. Terry Gustason, Bake Sale Chair

Our formally organized and hosted after-worship coffee fellowship time will gather on the third Sundays of June (18th) NEXT SUNDAY - HOORAY, July (16th) and August (20th). If you would like to gather in Fellowship Hall on the other Sundays you are most welcome. We just won't have coffee and snacks prepared for you.

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. Youth Group is led by a Youth Council comprised of both adult and youth members, so there will be a few organizational meetings with 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. 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.

The Story City Carousel is open for the season and the Story City Chamber is searching for volunteers to help keep it running. They were wondering if we have any groups, youth groups, or committees who might be interested in volunteering some time? They only do a 2 hour shift split up throughout operating hours to help keep it a small commitment. Do we have any groups within our

church family who would be interested? Please call the Chamber at 515-733-4214, or email them at info@storycitygcc.com.

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:;
Denny Michel; Vivian Whitmore; Barbara Wheeler; family of Beverly Highland (Donyel Caruth's friend); Chuck Jewell; Jeanne Hohneke; Ray Hults; George Sellers; Lois Johnson; Al Rau; Jordan Gertsen; Rich Iverson (friend of Kurt Carlson); Cooper Leeman

News You Can Use

Sunday, June 11

9:15 AM Worship

Monday, June 12

6:00 PM SPRC (*please note change of time*)

7:00 PM Worship

Sunday, June 18

9:15 AM Worship

10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship hosted by Team "E"

**Faithfully,
Cathy**