



# 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.

## Celebrating Our Scouts at Grace!

Pictures shared by Shelley Hart, Loretta Parker



We're proud of our Scouts!



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

call us

(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*

## March Birthdays



Lilyah Berry	3-2
Jason Haglund	3-3
Nate Warwick	3-5
Mark Hermanson	3-8
Joan Doolittle	3-9
Judy Andrew	3-9
Carissa Myers	3-12
Jakob Lester	3-12
Cathy Gerjets	3-13
Peter Larson	3-14
Haroldean Gorman	3-15
Pat Danger	3-16
Kenny Gookin	3-15
Kevin Whitmore	3-17
Raejean Bicklehaupt	3-18
Nicolas Hofsommer	3-18
Chase Blagg	3-19
Christine Marti	3-26
Ethan Marti	3-26
Steven Richardson	3-27
Isabel Hoskins	3-27
Claudia Pauk	3-28
Zane Haglund	3-29

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

## March Lectionary

### March 5

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32  
Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11

### March 12

Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3: 1-17

### March 19

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95  
Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

### March 26

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

**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

March 2017

March is always a hopeful month. The days have been getting longer, the buds on the trees will start emerging, and we've even heard the songs of a few birds early returned from their fall migration. The calendar reminds us that winter's grip indeed can't last forever!



This March brings the season of Lent, which always reminds me of the hope found in God's promises. In Lent, we prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ's resurrection at Easter. This is the story of God's grace at work in our world. Christ took on our humanity in his birth in Bethlehem, walked among us in his earthly ministry, demonstrated God's great love for us on the cross, and opened the door to eternal life through his resurrection from the dead.

God's grace is at work in our world, but God's grace also continually works in our individual lives. God works in all our circumstances, even the difficult ones, to draw us into the arms of God's gracious and merciful care.

Some time ago a friend gave me a short poem that describes how God is at work in circumstances easily overlooked as places where God is bringing about divine purposes. I've kept it tucked away in my journal with a few other pieces I pull out and read at certain times. This was written by a poet named Rumi, who was an ardent seeker after God. It is entitled "Rumi, Pay Homage."

***If God said,***

***Rumi, pay homage to everything  
that has helped you  
enter my  
arms,"***

***there would not be one experience of my life,  
not one thought, not one feeling,  
not any act, I  
would not  
bow  
to.***

The shift into spring shows us God at work in creation; our Lenten observance proclaims God's loving grace in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; Rumi and even the Apostle Paul (Romans 8:28) remind us that God is working out God's good purposes in the circumstances of our lives. May you sense God's grace nurturing and sustaining you this Lenten season.



## 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

## Scout Sunday 2017

We recognized our Scouting youth and children on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. The 10 scouts performed a flag ceremony and helped with parts of the worship service.

### Charlie Fournier

son of Duane & Stephanie Fournier

### Tori Fournier

daughter of Duane & Stephanie Fournier

### Jarod Hart

son of Eric & Shelley Hart

### Luccas Hart

son of Eric & Shelley Hart

### Jenna Hoskins

daughter of Matt & Amber Hoskins

### Owen Hubert

son of Adam & Valerie Hubert

### Kaitlyn Jacobson

daughter of Julie Jacobson

### Savannah Jensen

daughter of Craig Jensen & Andrea Jensen

### Charlie Watts

son of Dwain & Erica Watts

### Riker Warwick

son of Nate & Malinda Warwick



## March Volunteers

### Sunday, March 5

**Liturgist** – Denny Michel

**Greeters** – LeRoy & Priscilla Johnson,  
Cindy Spurlock

**Ushers** – Rod & Sue Bohner,  
Christine Marti, Loretta Parker



### Sunday, March 12

**Liturgist** – George Janvrin

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

**Ushers** – Christine Marti, Loretta Parker



### Sunday, March 19

**Liturgist** – Terry Gustason

**Greeters** –

**Ushers** –

**Fellowship Brunch** –

Priscilla & LeRoy Johnson  
Loretta Parker, Christine Marti



### Sunday, March 26

**Liturgist** – Kurt Carlson

**Greeters** –

**Ushers** – Christine Marti, Loretta Parker



**Newsletter folders** – Dan & Marilyn Webster



## 2017 Grace Confirmation Class



Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will completed the classroom portion of our Confirmation program on March 5<sup>th</sup>. The class was led by Pastor Fred with support from Sharla Mander. In addition to bookwork and discussions, the students worked on their faith canvases with Rod Bohner, submitted sermon notes for 18 services and visited worship services at other denominations. Confirmation Day is set for April 30<sup>th</sup> during our worship service. Members of the class of 2017 include Zane, Haglund, Jenna Hoskins, Kaitlyn Jacobson, Dylan Kahl. Jarod Hart also participated in the program, but will be confirmed in his family's home church, Mackey UMC. (See pictures of their faith canvas work in progress on page 7.)

## Our Prayers

Bill Mardock; Lois Johnson; Al Rau; Bobby Jacobson; Rich Iverson (friend of Kurt Carlson); Patty Geer; Don (nephew of George Sellers); Bruce Leuschen; Trace Matson; Carolyn Bostwick; Cooper Leeman

## Our Presence

**Attendance Jan 29 – Feb 26:**  
Worship: 518 Total – 113 avg  
S. School: 174 Total – 35 avg

## Our Gifts

**Offering – Jan 29 – Feb 26:**  
**\$17,730.01**

## Our Service

In February, the UMW put together 14 health kits and sent them off to Sager Brown UMCOR facilities in Louisiana for distribution. The value of that project was \$210.

## Our Witness

We appreciate our February liturgists Denny Michel, Tori Fournier, Gloria Sampson, Donyel Caruth

## Thank You!

Dear Grace United Methodist Church,  
Your donation of \$50 helps us to continue our work to assist those with food insecurity in our area. Your generous support makes our communities great places to live.  
Loaves and Fishes

## Help Wanted



**We are looking for someone to serve as a Grace Church delegate** to the annual Bethany Life

Communities meeting in late April. Your responsibility would be to attend the meeting as a representative of Grace UMC and to report on it to our Church Council. Please contact the office if you can help.

## Evening of Fellowship



On February 12<sup>th</sup>, a multi-generational group got together over homemade soups and special goodies to play games and enjoy one another's company. There were several "new" (as in not familiar) games offered as well as classics like

Uno, Cribbage and Apples to Apples. Laughter and lively conversation echoed through Fellowship Hall – we had a good time! The evening was deemed a success as there were requests to schedule another game night soon!

Thank you to our hosts for the evening: Kurt & Denise Carlson, Jim & Shelley Hassebrock, Mark & Cathy Hermanson, Kevin & Candi Holm, Lorijo Lounsberry, Mike & Christine Marti, Gini & Caleb Michel, Louis & Tep Reeder (see pictures on page 7)

## Youth News



We loved the February Youth Group meeting! In fact, the whole meeting was about love. We really loved Sharla's lasagna and breadsticks for supper (emotional love). We enjoyed playing a gummy game with the youth group friends we love to hang out with (buddy love). We even learned about God's unconditional love for us (God-sized love). In fact, everyone got a flower to take home as a reminder to think about God's love every time we see flowers.

To show God's love in action, the youth chose to do random acts of kindness throughout the month of February. At the March meeting, they will share stories of their random acts of kindness.

The youth continue to make plans to attend Reggie's Sleepout (RSO), March 25 at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames. RSO in Ames will benefit three organizations that work to alleviate and eliminate homelessness in our communities: YSS, Assault Care Center Extending Shelter and Support (ACCESS) and Emergency Residence Project (ERP). In addition to the box in the narthex, you can donate online by visiting: <http://www.reggiessleepout.org/ames/>. If we stay in the top five fundraising teams, you can easily find us under Grace UM Youth Story City in the "Top Team Fundraisers" box on the right. Otherwise, you will have to click on the big red "DONATE" box and look up a specific camper. Our current campers are: Jason Haglund, Zane Haglund, Chase Blagg, Cale Gregori, Jarod Hart, Jenna Hoskins, and Parker Watts. We will be accepting donations through Sunday, March 19. Please consider giving to this important cause and supporting our Grace Church youth mission project.

Our youth group was invited to join St. Petri Lutheran Church and Immanuel Lutheran Church youth groups for Game Night Feb. 10. Three of our members joined in the fun at the Story City Rec Center for some raucous games. Then, they walked to Immanuel Lutheran Church and enjoyed root beer floats. It was another awesome night of fun and fellowship!

## Education News

The Education Committee has designed a photo release form giving permission for Grace Church to use images of Grace children and youth to publicize church activities on our website, social media, newsletters, bulletin boards, and newspapers. Paper copies of the form are available on the table under the *Jesus and the Children* print in the narthex.

### Education Events Dates for this spring at Grace UMC include:

- March 12** – Time Change, “spring ahead” NO Sunday school (R-S Spring Break)
- April 2** – Camp Sunday
- April 9** – Palm Sunday - Children will carry palm branches into the worship service.
- April 16** – Easter – No Sunday school
- April 30** – Confirmation Sunday
- May 7** – Music Sunday
- May 14** – Mother’s Day – last day for Sunday school ‘til Sept.
- May 21** - Baccalaureate

## Loaves & Fishes

### Help Wanted



The Missions Committee is looking for help hosting at the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry on the following Saturday mornings this year: March 18, May 27, August 12, October 21 and December 30. The hours are 9:45 to noon. Any questions, please contact Sue Bohner at [ssnbohner@gmail.com](mailto:ssnbohner@gmail.com) or by phone 733-4149 or 515-290-5905. Thank you!

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Brunch



Sharla reports that 49 people enjoyed Biscuits and Gravy on February 19th. Thanks also Gini Michel, Cheryl Semler, Becky Senti, Patsy Jensen, Dale & Lynn Henricks, Denise Carlson, Eric Dowe, Tori Fournier. \$156.29 was raised for the *Ames Emergency Shelters*. Please join us on March 19<sup>th</sup> for Baked French Toast.

## UMW News



The regular meeting of the United Methodist Women was held Wednesday, February 8 with 13 members and one guest present. Erma shared our scripture, I John 5:21, members shared the purpose of UMW and united in prayer.

The secretary and treasures’ reports were read and approved. \$148.91 profit from the October brunch was sent along with the school kits to the in-gathering in November.

Correspondence: Erma shared an e-mail received from our district friend, Iola Chickering from Algona. We will invite her to one of meetings when the weather improves for travel.

Our unit is charge of the World Day of Prayer this year with all of the churches in Story City participating. The Philippines is the focus of the prayers and monetary donations. We plan to have a fair-like atmosphere with several booths about the Philippines on display. We will serve a luncheon from 11:30 to 1:00 open to everyone. Gloria made a motion that our unit prepare and pay for the luncheon, Terry Gustason seconded, motion carried. Volunteers to work in the kitchen: Patsy, Tep, Priscilla, Marilyn, and Erma. Erma and Marilyn have been the co-chairs of this project.

We watched three short UMCOR videos on how to prepare health kits, who receives help, and how we can help. We than prepared 12 health kits with the items each member donated plus money to ship the items. An example of the service of health kits: 50,000 health kits were sent from UMCOR to Syria.

Sue Bohner served as hostess.

The March meeting of UMW is Wed., the 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30. Call to Prayer & Self Denial will be led by Jeanne Honeke. Claudia Pauk will share “Bell Ringing for Women Rights” and Erma Schaeffer will be hostess.

## A Night Out



Several members of Grace enjoyed a delightful evening of good fun, good food and laughter on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Our group of 18 gathered at Smokey D’s in Des Moines for delicious BBQ and then made our way downtown to the Civic Center to see Christian comedian, Tim Hawkins, perform. We always enjoy special opportunities to gather and share a bit of life together. Thanks to all who took the time for some fun fellowship and to Kurt Carlson for pulling it all together for us.

## Fellowship Hall Projects



As reported last month, Cheryl Semler (with the grateful support of the Trustees) has been busy with several painting projects beginning with her work in Fellowship Hall. She has also painted doorways throughout the church as well as both stairwells from basement to balcony.

Cheryl did get some assistance with the project from Christine Semler-Blue, SamSenti and Chuck Semler. Cheryl's culminating project was the faith quote above the service window in Fellowship Hall. It all became a much larger project than was originally planned, but she generously shared her time, talent and resources to update our church home for everyone's enjoyment. Thank you, Cheryl and all!

With the recent re-painting of Fellowship Hall, other projects are springing up. Naomi Larson's watercolor painting of Story City's Swinging Bridge has recently been re-matted, reframed, and rehung in Fellowship Hall. Thank you to Naomi's son, Fred Larson and Jane Jackson, who recently donated the money for the updated display work on the print.

### Wooden Symbol Plaques



Recently, Pastor Fred was looking at old Confirmation pictures and noticed the wooden Christian symbol plaques that



once were hung on either side of the cross at the front of the sanctuary. Years ago (1996),



when we remodeled the sanctuary, the plaques were taken down and put away. The expense of the remodel didn't



include their refurbishment. Fast forward to January 2017 - at the request of the Worship



Committee and with the approval of the Trustees, the



plaques have been removed from storage, cleaned, stripped, re-stained and varnished by



Dan Webster. The plaques have been rehung in the sanctuary (thank you Jim Hassebrock) and will be re-dedicated at our March 5<sup>th</sup> worship service. Thank you to



Dan for restoring these beautiful pieces of our heritage so that we all can enjoy and be inspired by them again.

### Pictures of Grace

- \* Our Choirs performing in January
- \* Scouts
- \* Larson print
- \* Fellowship Hall inspiration



# February Pictures of Grace

Pictures shared by Shelley Hart, Loretta Parker, Sharla Mander, Cathy Hermanson



Winter Jam Youth Party



Game Night



Confirmation Canvases \* Children's Choir



## Church Council Notes

### Unofficial Minutes February 27, 2017 meeting

**Present:** Loretta Parker (Chair), Erma Schaeffer (UMW), Cheryl Semler (Worship), Dave Loupee (Finance), Shelley Hassebrock (SPRC/Trustees), Terry Gustason (Treasurer), Gini Michel (Education), Pastor Fred, Cathy Hermanson (rec. secretary)

Loretta offered a prayer and opened the meeting.

Cheryl moved the January minutes be accepted. Motion passed.

**Finance:** Dave reported our January offering fell short of our operating expenses, but we had a cushion from our December income to meet our needs and pay both our January and February apportionment obligations. Gini moved to accept report – motion passed.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Fred reported Confirmation classwork has been completed by the class. He attended the Conference Healthy Ministry Task Force meetings. There was an Interim Ministry segment that he participated in – Grace Church's work is looked upon favorably in the Conference.

**CDT –** Terry and Fred reported the CDT met every Wednesday in February and is continuing working on a congregational study that will, at some point, be opened up to the membership of the church. This is a step in developing a Mission and Ministry action plan for Grace for the next couple years. They are working toward a July 1 deadline. This plan will be useful beyond our walls as the Conference will use the information as a guide when it comes time to assign a new pastor.

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

**Worship:** Cheryl reported Dan Webster completed the refurbishment of the wood symbols plaques and they have been hung in the sanctuary. Third Sunday Brunch in April will be moved to the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Easter is on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday). April 13 is the Maundy Thursday service. Confirmation Sunday is April 30 – Confirmands will help lead the service. Dylan Kahl volunteered to give the sermon. A new banner is on the way.

**Christian Education:** Gini reported Camp Sunday is April 2<sup>nd</sup> – already getting inquiries about assistance for church campers. Cheryl moved a special offering be a part of Camp Sunday to help subsidize campers. Last year Grace Church had 6 church campers. VBS will be with St. Petri again this summer. They do a nice job with a multi-generational approach. We'll need a new youth leader next year. In April, we'll begin recruiting for Sunday school teachers for 2017-18.

**Missions:** Gloria sent a report. Next meeting is March 18<sup>th</sup>. February 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday brunch served 49 and raised \$156.29 for Ames Emergency Shelter.

**UMW:** Erma reported UMW made 12 health kits for UMCOR – a value of \$210. World Day of Prayer is March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Plans are to make it a "fair" with centers for worship, a video, a Philippines cultural artifact center and a light lunch of Philippine cuisine. Laila Tesdall has been a wonderful resource. They hope to serve 40 people.

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

**SPRC –** Shelley reported they are working on staff job descriptions.

**Trustees –** Shelley shared Jim's report that work is being planned to replace the flooring in the downstairs parsonage bathroom. Donors may also paint the room and possibly re-glaze the tub. Loretta added the Trustees have received bids for taking down the tree in the parking section in front of the parsonage. Need to get approval from City Tree committee. Some figures regarding both elevator upkeep (replacing the accordion door) and elevator replacement were shared. A ballast in one of the Sunday school rooms was replaced and work on a parsonage garage door has been completed. A query about removing the broken accordion door in Fellowship Hall since replace parts are no longer available was sent to the Trustees.

**New Business:** Erma thanked Cheryl Semler for all of the painting work she has done in Fellowship Halls, doorways throughout the church and in the two stairwells – basement to balcony. Loretta echoed the thanks and many commented on how beautiful Fellowship Hall is looking with the improvement.

**Meeting Adjourned.**

**Next meeting: Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**

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





## FIXED INCOME FOR RETIREMENT – CASE STUDY



After working for decades as a pediatrician in a small rural town, Patricia was ready to retire.

**Patricia:** I bought some stock a number of years ago and overall this was a good investment for me. However, I was uncertain about leaving my savings in the market where I knew it could go up or down.

I was also looking for security for my retirement years. Ideally, I wanted to know that I would have the income I needed and that it would not change with the markets.

Patricia talked to a friend who had found a good choice. Her friend had set up a gift annuity with her favorite charity. Patricia thought that perhaps a gift annuity would be helpful for her.

**Patricia:** I called and asked about a gift annuity. I was very pleased to discover that I would receive a good payout based on my age. Plus, there would be a charitable tax deduction and part of the income would be tax free.

I transferred my stock for a charitable gift annuity. I was delighted with the fixed payment I received. I avoided part of the capital gains tax and my CPA was pleased that my charitable deduction will save taxes this year. With my tax savings and increased income, I plan to spend more on my grandchildren this year!

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> .

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You also may want to make it easy and convenient to have a bequest included in your will. The language below shows how a bequest can very easily be included in your will. Please feel free to give this information to your attorney.

**Example bequest language** - Please feel free to change the numbers or percentages as you desire.

**1. Bequest of cash**

"I bequeath the sum of \$10,000 to Grace United Methodist Endowment Fund of Story City."

**2. Bequest of a percent of the estate**

"I devise and bequeath 20% of the remainder and residue of property owned at my death, whether real or personal, and wherever located to Grace United Methodist Endowment Fund of Story City."

**3. Contingent Bequest**

"If my brother John Doe survives me, I devise and bequeath 20% of the remainder and residue of property owned at my death, whether real or personal, and wherever located to John Doe. If John Doe does not survive me, then I devise and bequeath 20% of my residuary estate, whether real or personal property and wherever located to Grace United Methodist Endowment Fund of Story City."

# March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> ASH WEDNESDAY  5:45 Youth  7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells		<b>3</b>  11:30-1:00 PM World Day of Prayer Hosted by Grace	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> choir <b>First Sunday of Lent</b>  9:15 Worship w/ Communion 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday school	<b>6</b>  6:30 Education	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  1:30 UMW 5:30 Children's Bells 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	
<b>12</b> bells  8:00 Trustees 9:15 Worship 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 NO Sunday school	<b>13</b>   5:30 SPRC 7:00 Worship	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	<b>16</b>		<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> choir  8:15 Missions 9:15 Worship 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday school	<b>20</b>		<b>22</b>  5:30 Children's Bells  7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells		<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  YOUTH – Reggie's Sleepout
<b>26</b> children's bells  9:15 Worship 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday school	<b>27</b>  5:30 Finance 7:00 Council	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	<b>30</b>		<b>Looking Ahead:</b> Apr. 9 Palm Sunday Apr. 13 Maundy Thurs Apr. 16 EASTER Apr. 23 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Br Apr. 30 Confirmation May 7 Music Sunday May 14 Mother's Day – Last day of S.S. May 21 Baccalaureate May 28 Memorial

