



May 12, 2017

Greetings friends,

My family just celebrated Mother's Day on Wednesday. As always, I think of my mom and grandmas on Mother's Day. We remember and celebrate Mark's mom. And now, with the arrival of Cora last year, we celebrate my daughter-in-law, Kristin. For years we made a point of going to see grandmas and moms on Mother's Day. We'd always take a card and usually a beautiful hanging basket of flowers to help decorate their yards for summer. It was never about me in my role as a mother because they were senior and I was perfectly fine with that. Both my mom and grandma have been gone quite a while now, but still the day isn't tailored around me (though I always receive a lovely card(s) and a thoughtful gift). Now it's about Kristin. And I'm the one that promotes that – making sure the day is celebrated in the way that she prefers on the schedule that works best for their family. Some may argue I'm doing it wrong, but really, I'm not. I know my son, his sweet family and my husband love me;

they show me that daily – not just on the second Sunday in May. Kristin is a nurse and we've learned life is so much simpler for all of us when we plan around her work schedule. This means we celebrate together when it is *convenient* to do so. We do that for every holiday because, when you think about it, *it isn't about the calendar; it's about the family*. And spending joyful, stress-free time with my family, no matter what day the calendar may say it is, makes me happy. Happy Mother's Day!

This week at Grace – It's Mother's Day! Nate Warwick will be in the pulpit for us and his stepson, Chase Blagg, will be making his debut as liturgist. Nate will be using Psalm 31:1-15 as the inspiration for his message, "Who Wants to Rock". Our special music this week comes from a new Sunday school quartet including: Isabel Hoskins, Riley Larson, Colton Pepin and Jori Witthuhn. Erma says they are really good – or in the vernacular of the day, they ROCK! As always, our worship service begins at 9:15. Please join us!

In this past week you should have received a second survey put out by our Congregational Development Team (CDT). Please take a moment to fill it out submit. The CDT is working hard to put together a document for use by the District Superintendent, the Bishop and the Appointive Cabinet of the Conference as they assign a new pastor to us NEXT spring. The document tells the above mentioned folks who Grace Church is and what we need in a new pastor. *To be able to accurately do that, you need to help by participating in the survey, this is your opportunity to have input.* The deadline for this survey submission is Monday, May 15th.

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 – 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 few 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.

Next week look for the price list for the Scandinavian Days Bake Sale at Grace on Friday, June 2nd in TWAG. If for some reason you need to refer to it before then, you can find the list in the May *Grace Visitor* and it will be printed as an insert in the bulletin this week.

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.**

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:; 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, May 14 – Mother's Day

8:15 AM Missions

9:15 AM Worship

10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM Last day of Sunday school until September 10

Sunday, May 21 – Baccalaureate

8:15 AM Missions

9:15 AM Worship

10:15 AM Cake reception in honor of graduates

**Faithfully,
Cathy**