



May 4, 2017

Greetings friends,

April was a very busy month at Grace and it doesn't appear that things will be slowing down in May. Each Sunday is busy with special focus beginning this week when we spend our whole service lifting our voices and hands in praise music. This is a beloved tradition of long-standing and an acknowledgement of one of the things that makes our church special. Next week we'll honor our mothers on Mother's Day. Our worship the following week will include a celebration of our graduating high school youth and also those graduating from college or trade schools. We're proud of the hard work members have put forth to reach goals and chase dreams. And finally, on the last Sunday this month, we'll acknowledge memorial gifts received in this past year and remember those who died in service to our country. Happy May!

This week at Grace – It's Music Sunday on the 7th! Each of our choirs will reprise music they've previously shared this year. That's FOUR choirs leading our worship in joyful praise. Hallelujah! Pastor Fred has forfeited his traditional "Minute Message" this year to give our FOUR Touch of Grace Bells 40 year members a chance to share a few memories. Come ready to sing out the page number of your favorite hymn as there will be FOUR (plus 2) opportunities for hymn sings throughout the service. Please join us!

ALL CHURCH WORK DAYS – postponed from last week!

4:00-6:00 pm Friday, May 5

9:00-Noon Saturday, May 6

Please bring appropriate tools for the chores you choose to work on – inside or outside.

In this past week you should have received a 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 survey submission is Tuesday, May 9th.

Claudia Pauk and Cathy Hermanson are thankful to so many who have said "yes" when asked to share music talents at our summer worship services. We have just one date left to fill!

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 couple 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.

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.**

Cedar Place residents invite you to a joint Bake Sale/Plant Sale on Saturday, May 6th from 8:30 – 11:30am at Cedar Place 812 Cedar St. Story City. Bake sale proceeds will help us to purchase annual flowers to decorate our patio and the butterfly garden. Our “babies” for the plant sale are slipped from “mother plants” belonging to residents. We have some unusual plants to sell. Hope to see you on the 6th!

The Story City Carousel is opening for the season May 6th and 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 7 – MUSIC Sunday

8:00 AM Trustees – note change of week – you're a week early this month!

9:15 AM Worship

10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM Sunday school

Monday, May 8

5:30 PM SPRC

7:00 PM Worship

Wednesday, May 10

1:30 PM UMW

7:00 PM Choir

Sunday, May 14 – Mother's Day

9:15 AM Worship

10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship

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

**Faithfully,
Cathy**