

October 13, 2017

Greetings friends,

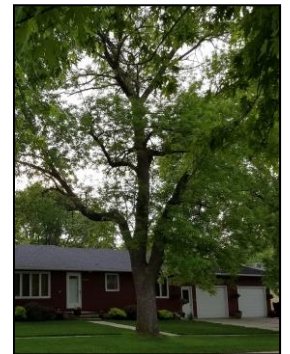
I said good-bye to a dear old friend earlier this week.

My folks brought her into our lives and I've known her since I was a tot riding my trike, skipping through games of hopscotch and playing "Barbies" in the blissful shade of quiet, summertime mornings. As I grew, she grew as well and provided many evenings of strong, benevolent care while my siblings and I grabbed on tight and swung with her as we played mad games of "Lava Man" under her graceful presence. She was tall and steady and ever faithful as the oldest of my brothers (as a young boy) conducted elaborate war games with his plastic army men and ash seedlings at her feet.

In a world full of change, she was a stalwart. Two of her sisters succumbed to disease years ago and younger sisters arrived to take their places, each faithfully growing in her own beauty alongside my special friend. She was shelter and solace in both the storms and the clear, sunny days of life.

My friend was there as my siblings and I grew up and started families of our own. She stood watch as our children also grew and played and frisky squirrels romped around her. She was stable and sure as we first said good-bye to our dad and then a few years later, our mom. Even little Cora has played in the comfort of her company. Four generations of my family have known her constancy.

A few weeks ago, my life-long friend suffered the devastating loss of a limb and further tests revealed a body riddled with disease. It was time to let her go. Farewell my old ash tree friend. Thanks for nearly 60 years of precious memories and the wonderful stability and shade you offered. You will be missed.



This week at Grace – We welcome Linda Poore to share the morning message "The Invitation" this week! She will speak from the Matthew 22:1-14 text. Beckey Witthuhn will share the Children's Message, "Over and Over Again". The Chancel Choir sings the beautifully inspirational anthem, *Here I Stand*. Terry Gustason is our liturgist this week with Shirley Frandson and Cathy & Cora Hermanson serving as greeters. Terry Gustason, Mark Hermanson and Grace & Rick Welke will be acting as ushers. As always, worship begins at 9:15. We invite you to join us!

Congratulations and Godspeed on your journey to Jerry Spencer as he received a unanimous Charge Conference Community of Faith recommendation in his quest to become a Candidate for Ministry through the United Methodist Church. This was just one step in his journey, but this man is going places!

The Worship Committee is pleased to invite you to a Soup Supper **THIS SUNDAY** evening **OCTOBER 15th, beginning at 5:00 p.m.** Brian McNamara will provide our evening's entertainment with stories of his Model T Alaskan Adventure from this past summer. You don't have to bring a thing other than yourselves, an appetite, and curiosity about Brian's special trip! Please join us!

All components of the Health Kits for the Thanksgiving Ingathering are due **THIS Sunday**, October 12th. The UMW invites anyone interested and available at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 18th to join them in Fellowship Hall to assemble the kits.

Pat Danger has several wonderful books that she is giving away as she prepares to move. She has them on a table in Fellowship Hall. Please help yourself!

NEEDED: Old WHITE sheets or table clothes for the Sunday school Christmas program. We'll be cutting up the sheets (both fitted and flat are welcome) and fashioning them into angel costumes.

The November/December *Upper Room* devotionals are here and ready for pick-up in the narthex!
JINGLES FOR JULIE - During the month of October, you are invited to save your pocket change for our friend, Julie Jacobson. Please pick up a small kit including a calendar and small paper sack on a table in the narthex. The calendar is self-explanatory and takes just a bit of time each day. Simply follow the plan day-by-day, depositing your pocket change in the attached paper bag. When the calendar is completed, please bring your bag of change to the church and place it in the large brown bag also located on the table in the narthex. Our goal is to have all our smaller bags back before **Harvest Home Sunday, November 12th** so we may present your gifts to Julie at that worship service.

The month of October is the time to sign up for Meals on Wheels and to choose the route and day(s) you choose to help. Please be generous with your time to help us. As in the past, there will be no meals delivered on Thanksgiving or the Friday after. A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the Narthex. We just have a few spots left to fill! As you sign up for your volunteer days, don't forget to pick up a "Volunteer Tips and Reminders" sheet also. This sheet should answer any questions you might have. If you still have questions, ask or call Claudia Pauk.

The Finance Committee plans to submit the 2018 Budget at the October Church Council Meeting on October 23rd, rather than at the Charge Conference this year. This will allow us to adopt it as a *working budget* which can be amended at regular Council meetings. If we approve it at the Charge Conference it becomes an "official budget" which can only be altered through special called charge conference action. Finance Co-Chair, Tim Tryon, reports the 2018 budget of \$208,278 is less than a 1% overall increase from the 2017 budget. If you have questions or would like a detailed copy of the proposed budget, please contact Tim. **FUN FACT:** Did you know that ANY GRACE CHURCH MEMBER can attend ANY of our monthly Grace Church Council meetings? You can! Only members of the council may vote, but ANY MEMBER can attend, ask questions and participate in discussions.

All members of Grace are invited and encouraged to attend with voice and vote our annual church/charge conference to be held on Sunday, November 5, at the Boone United Methodist Church, 703 Arden Street, Boone.
The conference will begin at 2 pm and finish by 4:30 pm. This year's church charge conference is with our neighboring United Methodist Churches in the southern 3 counties of the North Central District. This is a special way to meet together for fellowship, prayer, and discernment of God's way together.

The Story Theater will present the inspiring, faith-themed *A Question of Faith* Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Oct. 13, 14, 15, with showings at 7 p.m. each evening, plus matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 4:30 p.m. Admission is only \$4 and it's rated PG.* For more information call 733-4551 (to leave a message) or 733-4319 (during theater hours).

The Story City Lions Club invites you to a Pancake Supper at the Story City Legion on Thursday, October 19th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Please see the poster on the narthex hallway bulletin board for details.

St Petri Lutheran Church in Story City will be hosting their 28th Annual Turkey Supper on Saturday, October 21st from 5-7. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer: Sara Dappen; Gloria Sampson; Denny Michel; Sharene Lykins; Ron & Darlys Orth; Julie Jacobson; Sharon Matson; Parker Witthuhn; Helen Gates; Norman Patti; Claudia Pauk; Marjorie Gookin; Pam Hillis; Jeanne Hohneke; Ray Hults; George Sellers; Lois Johnson; Al Rau; Jordan Gertsen; Cooper Leeman; Taylor family in Africa mission

News You Can Use

Sunday, October 15

- 9:15 AM Worship – Linda Poore leads
- 10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30 AM Sunday school – Confirmation Class on field trip
- 5:00 PM Soup Supper and Brian McNamara Alaska Story

Wednesday, October 18

- 1:00 PM Assemble Health Kits
- 7:00 PM Choir
- 8:00 PM Bells

Saturday, October 21

- Grace leads Loaves and Fishes

Sunday, October 22

- 9:15 AM Worship – Nate Warwick leads
- 10:15 AM Sunday Brunch – Baked French Toast
- 10:30 AM Sunday school



Faithfully,
Cathy

