



October 27, 2017

Greetings friends,

Mark and I snuck in a visit to Max's home to surprise him on his birthday yesterday afternoon. It is a treat to go over there because we feel very popular at their house. Their dog, Madmartigan, goes berserk with joy when we arrive, Cora is always sweetly thrilled when we show up, and Max and Kristin are very welcoming (particularly this time as we brought a meal AND Max's preferred birthday treat – homemade apple pie).

To my mind, this high regard for grandparents is tradition.

I remember being overjoyed when Grandpa Homer and Grandma Myrt would visit – though we all (including “the Grands” preferred to meet out on the farm). They were our favorite people and fun was never far away when we spent time in their company. We rarely did anything especially designed solely for our entertainment, Grandpa and Grandma just absorbed us into their lifestyle and that was perfectly fine with us. To my siblings and me, everyday life on the farm was exotic and full

of adventure. Doing chores with our grandparents was joy and when those tasks were complete, we were free to explore and play. Grandma had different indoor play things than what we had at home and our imaginations went 95 miles an hour as we played outdoors on their farm.

When Max was Cora's age and we lived right across the street from my folks, he would stand by the living room window and jabber, “Pick-up, pick-up, pick-up” as his grandpa arrived home (in his pick-up) after work. Grandpa Butch owned several car washes in the area and would often take Max with him on his maintenance runs – this went on regularly (at some points nearly daily) from infancy until Max joined the Marines a couple months before his 19th birthday. Grandma Diane was much loved as well and Max enjoyed spending time with her, too. But everyone knew Max believed his Grandpa Butch hung the moon and the stars – they were the best of buddies.

I believe time and attention were my grandparent's and parent's secrets when it came to their grandkids. Their grandchildren were a priority and they enjoyed every opportunity to connect. Those are the standards Mark and I and my siblings are determined to carry on for our grandchildren. With technological tools like FaceTime and Skype, it is do-able - even if we live far apart.

The last time I picked up Cora to bring her home with me for the weekend, she was ready. Her folks had prepared her for our adventure and she wanted to go RIGHT NOW! The moment I stepped in the door, Cora hurried up to me chattering and pointing to her bag of clothes as Kristin tried to corral her to put on shoes. Max hustled out to my car to put in her car seat and Madmartigan immediately climbed onto my lap (all 95 pounds of him) the minute I sat down. At her determined insistence, ten minutes later Cora and I were on the way back to Story City and she was sound asleep. She awakened as I pulled in the driveway and as soon as Grandpa released her from the car seat, she led us to the backyard to explore and play.

We may not ever rise to the rarified level of “hanging the moon and stars” for Cora, but her enthusiasm for us makes Mark and me feel like we're on the right track in building a special relationship with her... and in upholding the family tradition. What joy there is in this grandparenting journey!

This week at Grace – Pastor Fred is back in the pulpit at the end of a busy month. He'll be speaking on the text, Matthew 22:34-46. Gloria Sampson is our liturgist this week with Casey, Dylan and Emmerson Kahl serving as greeters. Dave & Mary Loupee and Dave & Marlene Doolittle will be acting as ushers. As always, worship begins at 9:15. You're invited to Fellowship Hall after worship for snacks and conversation and Sunday school begins at 10:30. Please join us!

The November/December *Upper Room* devotionals are here and ready for pick-up in the narthex!

We're in our last few days of our “Jingles for Julie” project for our friend, Julie Jacobson. When your calendar is completed, please bring your bag of change to the church and place it in the plastic bin located on the table in the narthex. We need all bags returned by **Harvest Home Sunday, November 12th** so we may present your gifts to Julie at that worship service.

All members of Grace are invited and encouraged to attend with voice and vote our annual church/charge conference to be held **NEXT 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.

Our Fall All-Church Outdoor Clean-Up Days are coming up on **Friday and Saturday, November 10-11.** Please note these days on your calendars and plan to be a part of the fun!

Message from Meals on Wheels Coordinator, Claudia Pauk –

"Wednesday, November 1st is the start of Grace church's responsibility for Meals on Wheels. Please remember to pick up meals on north side of church between 10:45 and 10:50. Thanks"

Meals on Wheels – Nov. 1-2 Jensen; Nov. 3 Henricks *Thank you for your service!*

The award-winning **Monroe Crossing** will perform **Thursday, Nov. 2** at 7 p.m. on the historic stage at the Story Theater Grand Opera House. Get your tickets now at the theater during regular operating hours or by arrangement. For info please call 515/733-4551, 515/733-4319 or 515/290-4011 (cell) and leave a message if possible. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$25 at the door. You can also mail in your request with a check to: Story Theater, 512 Broad St., Story City IA 50248. Please include \$1 for p/h. Doors open the night of the concert at 6:30 p.m. Don't miss this return engagement by the highly-acclaimed Minnesota band, Monroe Crossing!

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer: Family of Dwight "Mac" McVicker; Sara Dappen; Marjorie Gookin; Denny Michel; Sharene Lykins; Julie Jacobson; Sharon Matson; Norman Patti; 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 29

- 9:15 AM Worship – Children's Bells
- 10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30 AM Sunday school

Wednesday, November 1

- 7:00 PM Choir
- 8:00 PM Bells

Saturday, November 4

- 9:00 AM Thanksgiving Ingathering

Sunday, November 5 – All Saint's Day

- 9:15 AM Worship – choir, Communion
- 10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30 AM Sunday school



**Faithfully,
Cathy**