



November 10, 2017

Greetings friends,

Last month Cora found a battery tea light in one of my drawers and brought it to me to light for her. Never one to let an opportunity pass to share a song with her; I turned it on as I sang and began to teach her, “This Little Light of Mine.” Her little eyes lit up and her whole body began to move with the song. What a precious moment of special connection that was for both of us.

It got me to thinking about the power of song and of light. I’ve pondered the blessing of sharing something I love with someone else. And eventually, this morning, it brought me to this:

*I’d like to challenge you to take a moment in each of the next 13 days until Thanksgiving Day to write down something or someone you are thankful for in your life. Then, take another moment to reflect and perhaps pray in gratitude for that precious gift.*

In a world that seems to have taken a turn for the worse in terms of attitudes and behaviors toward our neighbor, let’s choose to focus on something good for just 13 days (or longer if you like). Keeping in mind the adage that our “thoughts become words, our words become actions and our actions become a way of life”, let’s take that first important step, from thoughts into words, in gratitude.

Let’s fight the forces of negativity and actively look for positive influences. My belief is that many of us here at Grace are already mindful of our personal blessings. Even so, I doubt many of us write down a blessing and offer a prayer in thanks for it very often. My hope is that with this simple exercise, each of us will not only be enriched, but also, that those moments of daily thankfulness will be reflected in our outlook for the day. An attitude of gratitude for our blessings radiates from our whole being and into the lives of those around us. And thereby, the blessings in our lives multiply and spread light into the world.

*This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine...  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!*

*In the same way, let your light shine before others,  
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Matthew 5:16.

**This Week at Grace** – This Sunday is our Harvest Home celebration when we dedicate gifts to the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. Pastor Fred’s message this week, Being Ready is inspired by Matthew 25:1-13. *The Touch of Grace Bell Choir* has a real treat for us this month. They will be playing “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” with a New Orleans flair. They are pleased to welcome three guest instrumentalists for this song. Terry Gustason is our liturgist this week with LeRoy & Priscilla Johnson and Craig & Savannah Jensen serving as greeters. The Larson family will be acting as ushers. As always, worship begins at 9:15. You’re invited to Fellowship Hall after worship for snacks and conversation. Sunday school begins at 10:30. Please join us!

**Please remember to** bring donations for the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry to celebrate **HARVEST HOME THIS Sunday**. Because this is also **Bell Choir Sunday**, your donations of food and paper products will be collected and on display in the narthex. Thank you for giving generously.

With the end of October came the end of our month with the “Jingles for Julie” project. If you haven’t dropped off your bag of change for Julie, please try to come a little early on Sunday to turn it in. Plans are to present your gifts to Julie as a part of our worship service this week.

**Meals on Wheels – Nov. 6** Michel; **Nov. 7** McVicker; **Nov 8** Semler/Pauk; **Nov. 9** McVicker; **Nov. 10** Senti/Brekke Please remember to pick up meals on north side of church between 10:45 and 10:50. Thank you all for your service!

**Angel Tree Gift slips will be available** in the Narthex NEXT Sunday morning. Please plan to pick up a slip or two to help make a local child’s Christmas a little brighter this year.

**Stewardship Letters and Pledge cards went out in the mail this week.** We’re trying a shorter turn around this year and hope that works for you. *Please place your 2018 Pledge Cards in the offering plate on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> (NEXT WEEK) and we will dedicate them as a part of our worship service.*

**As a part of the Stewardship Letter,** you received a copy of the new brochures sponsored by the Communications Committee and designed by Mike Marti and Terry Gustason. These brochures will be shared with visitors and prospective members of Grace UMC.

**With only four teams, G.R.A.C.E. Teams share the month of December** to give us balance the rest of the year. During the month of December each of our four G.R.A.C.E. Teams will be responsible for one Sunday. Team E will provide ushers and greeters on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Team A will take Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> and Team G will cover Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>. Team C will provide greeters and ushers for both the 24<sup>th</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are not a Team C member, but would be available to help with either of the worship services on Christmas Eve or New Year’s Eve, please call the church office (733-4712).

The Story Theater is proud to present the inspiring, faith-themed **Same Kind of Different As Me** on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Nov. 17, 18, 19, 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-13. For more info. call [515/733-4551](tel:5157334551) (to leave a message) or [515/733-4319](tel:5157334319) (during theater hours).

**As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:**  
Erma Schaeffer; Natalie Tryon; 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, November 12 – Harvest Home Sunday

8:00 AM Trustees

9:15 AM Worship – Bells play

10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM Sunday school

### Wednesday, November 15

7:00 PM Choir

8:00 PM Bells

### Sunday, November 19

9:15 AM Worship – Commitment of Pledge Cards

10:15 AM 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Brunch – egg casserole/Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

10:30 AM Sunday school and Confirmation

Faithfully,  
Cathy