



February 16, 2018

Greetings friends,

The grand-girl visited for several days last week and Mark and I were reminded, once again, why God gives us children when we are young! I don't know how we'll manage when she gives up afternoon naps. :-D We NEED that two hours when she sleeps to catch our breaths and have our own quiet (recharge) time!

Today is her second birthday and oh, how our lives have been thoroughly enriched in these last two years. We thought we were happy before, but we just didn't know. We *couldn't* know how immensely this little cherub would raise our joy to unimagined heights. We are so grateful for the blessing of Cora in our lives.

We perhaps we should have at least guessed, after watching several friends over the last few years – Mike & Patsy, Kurt & Denise, Kevin & Candi to name a few. It could be argued we should have known given the way my dad used to dote on Max and his cousins. Now there was a man who thought the sun rose and set on his kids and that his grandkids set the stars. Mom did too, though she was a bit (okay, A LOT) more discreet about it.

Ahh, yes, the circle of life is an amazing blessing.

This Week at Grace –Pastor Fred's message, *Wilderness Preparation* is inspired by Mark 1:9-15. The Chancel Choir will sing, *There is Grace*. Greeters this week are Suzy Hess and Sue & Julie Jacobson. Those serving as ushers include "The WBC" – Nate, Malinda and Riker Warwick and Chase & Skylar Blagg. Worship begins at 9:15 with our Third Sunday brunch immediately following. This month we'll be dining on Egg Bake with Team "E" members helping host. Proceeds from this free-will offering meal will go to the Taylor Family in Africa mission. Sunday school will meet at 10:30. Please join us!

Grace Church is responsible for leading work at the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in 2018 and we need lots of volunteers to help and support our faithful leaders (Judy Miller, Sue Bohner, Claudia Pauk & Valerie Hubert). All kinds of opportunities abound – a sign-up sheet is on the north table in the narthex hallway. Please plan to get involved with this *Grace Church-wide* project this year.

LAST CHANCE! Anyone who would be interested in learning the tools to conflict management is invited to the day-long (8 a.m.-3 p.m.) workshop THIS Saturday, February 17th. Pastor Fred is facilitating the *Managing Conflict* workshop which will be held at Fairview Lodge here in Story City. Participants will be asked to complete an online personal assessment that we use in our training. The cost of the assessment is \$7.50; you will access the tool by making payment by credit card, and if you wish to be reimbursed for this cost please send a copy of your receipt to the church office. As part of this assessment, you will get a detailed copy of your style that should be helpful to you in whatever group you are part of.

The link to the online assessment is:

https://www.riverhouseexpress.com/index.php?option=com_virtuemart&view=productdetails&virtuemart_product_id=3&Itemid=176

A copy of the outline-in-progress is attached that will give you a fuller description of our learning for the day. Hand-outs will be provided for further reference as a part of the workshop.

Please let us know your plans to attend. Please also let us know if you are willing to bring breakfast items, fruit, juice, etc., and things for snacks. We are in the process of finalizing lunch plans.

ALL ARTICLES AND ITEMS FOR THE MARCH GRACE VISITOR NEWSLETTER ARE DUE IN THE OFFICE ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH!

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:
George Mackey; Tim (Becky Barclay's brother); Denny Michel; Julie Jacobson; Sara Dappen; Norman Patti; Pam Hillis; Lois Johnson; Cooper Leeman, Taylors in Africa

News You Can Use

Sunday, February 18

- 9:15 AM Worship – choir
- 10:15 AM Third Sunday Brunch – Egg Bake/Taylors in Africa
- 10:30 AM Sunday school

Tuesday, February 20

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

Wednesday, February 21

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

Sunday, February 25

- 9:15 AM Worship – children's choir
- 10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30 AM Sunday school and Confirmation

**Faithfully,
Cathy**