



February 9, 2018

Greetings friends,

The Lenten season begins later this week on February 14th. With that also comes a time of reflection and self-denial to mirror Jesus' 40 days and 40 nights alone in the wilderness without food.

This year, instead of telling you what I plan or suggesting ideas for things to give up for Lent, I'm going to offer a challenge. For the season of Lent (six weeks), *I challenge you to bring a friend or acquaintance with you to our worship services and/or Sunday school at Grace.* It may be someone newer to town. It could be someone who attended Grace previously or someone who doesn't attend church at all. It could be gently encouraging current members to make regular church attendance a priority in their lives again. We miss them!

Jesus challenged his disciples to "become fishers of men". So too, should we as followers of Christ. Lent is a fine time to redouble our efforts in that area.

This Week at Grace –Pastor Fred's message, *Finding Real Help* is inspired by Mark 1:29-39. The *Touch of Grace Bells* will play, *Break Thou the Bread of Life*. Kurt Carlson is our liturgist this week with our Scouts taking the responsibilities of serving as Greeters and Ushers AND leading us in a Flag Ceremony. Worship begins at 9:15 with Coffee Fellowship immediately following. Sunday school and Confirmation will meet at 10:30. The All-Church Valentine Potluck Lunch and Game Time will begin in Fellowship Hall at 11:45. Please join us!

You're invited to join us on **Sunday, February 11th at 11:45 a.m. for a Valentine Pot-Luck Meal and Games.** We'll hold it at the church in Fellowship Hall. The hosts will provide the drinks and tableware, group games and some "fabulous" prizes. We hope you'll choose to come have a warm, fun time on a cold winter afternoon.

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.

This Thursday, February 8th, is the Roland-Story Band and Vocal Concert beginning at 7:00pm. However, before the concert, there will be a free-will pancake supper hosted by MAST. We would love it if you would come, bring your whole family, maybe a couple of friends, and support the fine arts department. *The Bass Clef Choral Group (including our own Eric Dowe, Dylan Kahl and Cale Gregori) has been invited to sing at Carnegie Hall in March of 2019.* This will be an expensive trip, and fundraisers like the pancake supper help to offset the cost for all students. Please come and encourage other family members and friends to come as well! You can't beat a meal that you don't have to cook and is going to a great cause, right?

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 on 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.riverhouseeexpress.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.

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 11 – Scout Sunday

- 8:15 AM Trustees
- 9:15 AM Worship – bells
- 10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30 AM Sunday school & Confirmation

Monday, February 12

- 5:30 PM SPRC
- 7:00 PM Worship

Wednesday, February 14

- 1:30 PM UMW
- 7:00 PM Choir
- 8:00 PM Bells

Sunday, February 18

- 8:15 AM Trustees
- 9:15 AM Worship – choir
- 10:15 AM Sunday Brunch – Egg Bake/Taylor Family in Mission
- 10:30 AM Sunday school

**Faithfully,
Cathy**