



The Grace Church Visitor

Grace United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 67, 624 Elm Ave.
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www.grace-umc.com

FEBRUARY 2018

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February

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Office Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work at Grace!

Picture shared by Mark Hermanson



The Visitor is a monthly publication of
Grace UMC, Story City.

If you would like to

* add, change or remove your name from
our mailing or e-mailing list

*correct your address

*submit news to be published in
The Visitor...

Mail us the information
Grace UMC; 624 Elm Ave.

P.O. Box 67 OR

call us

(515) 733-4712 OR

email us:

office@grace-umc.com

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Grace = God's Riches At Christ's Expense

February Birthdays



Bill Mardock	2-1
Alexandra Franco	2-2
Shelly Turner	2-2
Lorijo Lounsberry	2-4
Velda Frette	2-5
Helen Johnson	2-6
Val Gregori	2-12
Judy Brekke	2-14
Jim Dale	2-18
David Barclay	2-18
Jerry M. Spencer	2-10
Tanner Blue	2-20
Vena Mae Larson	2-21
Brian Jensen	2-26
Ruby Matheason	2-27

If we're missing a birthday please accept our apologies and let us know so we can update our records!

February Lectionary

February 4

Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

February 11

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13;
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

February 18

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126;
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

February 25

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55;
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96;
Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

Deadline for submitting Visitor information is the 20th of each month. Information for the weekly bulletin and This Week at Grace is due in the office by noon on Wednesdays.

Our Sympathy



Patricia Lee Wilson passed away on January 5, 2018. A funeral service was held at Stevens Memorial Chapel in Ames with Pastor Fred Darbonne officiating. Blessed be our memories of Pat.

From Our Pastor

Fred Darbonne

February 2018

February, like any month, can mean different things to different people. I like to view February 1st as the halfway mark through the two coldest months of the year. January is over, and spring, wonderful spring, is getting closer! I look for any sign of hope this time of year.



February also brings Valentine's Day, which also can mean different things to different people. For some, thanks are expressed for the richness of a relationship that has deepened and matured over the years. For others, there is hope and promise of a bright future for a relationship that has just begun. School children can count the number of valentines they have received as marks of their social standing among their classmates. Then there are those who, like Charlie Brown in the television classic, *Be My Valentine, Charlie Brown*, wonder if the red-headed girl will return their affection, or even notices them. All the while Peppermint Patty can't sway Charlie Brown's affections, and Schroeder refuses Lucy's appeals for kisses and chocolate.

For better or worse, Valentine's Day can remind us that we were created for relationship. Living in relationship is part of what it means to be human. We were created to live in relationship with others, although human relationships are less than perfect.

But even if our human relationships were perfect, we were also created to live in relationship with God. We will never be complete without this divine relationship. And as imperfect as we may be, God still accepts us because God loves us. In fact, the Bible teaches us that God loved us when we were most unlovable. We will never understand the depths of God's grace.

When we love others we are being most like God. So express those kind words to someone who really needs an uplift right now. Write that note you've been postponing, or include someone in that invitation. We can communicate volumes with just a simple smile. Since God is love, we have the chance to act like God does every day of the year!

For Your Information



When there is a weather-related early out at Roland-Story schools, all church activities for that day will also be cancelled. Worship services will NOT be cancelled in the case of inclement weather. You are urged to use your own good judgment as to whether or not you are able to attend the service when the weather is nasty, but there will be a service.



G.R.A.C.E. Team E

Gene & Erma Schaeffer, chair

Tony & Christine Blue, Eric Dowe, Carroll & Judy Brekke, Darren & Dawn Diehl, Sam Diehl, Leah & Alan Frandson, Velda Frette, Jason & Jennifer Haglund, Zane Haglund, Bill & Suzy Hess, Jeremy Hess, Jason & Marcia Hofsommer, Adam & Valerie Hubert, Julie & Kaitlyn Jacobson, Sue Jacobson, Karen Keech, Brent & Amy Lester, Alyssa Loots, Sharla Mander, Bill & Susan Mardock, Dave & Linda McVicker, Ashley Miller, Judy Miller, Bob & Loretta Parker, Arris Richardson, Brian & Janet Richardson, Scott Richardson, Nate & Malinda Warwick, Ray & Jolene Wolf

Understanding & Working with Conflict Workshop



Dear Members of the Congregation:

Our Congregational Development Team and the SPRC will be hosting a workshop

from 8:00 to 3:00 on Saturday, February 17, at the Fairview Lodge here in Story City. This will be an opportunity for you to learn about your personal style when encountering conflict, understand the emotional processes in human groups like congregations, and learn some basic responses to conflict, either potential conflict or current conflict. We will also discuss levels of conflict and when calling for outside help is needed before conflict escalates to dangerous levels.

Participants will be asked to complete an online personal assessment that we use in our Interim Ministry Network 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.

February Volunteers

Sunday, February 4

- Liturgist** – Gloria Sampson
Greeters – Gene & Erma Schaeffer,
Leah Frandson
Ushers – Erma Schaeffer, Nate Warwick,
Suzy Hess, Chrissy Semler-Blue

Sunday, February 11

- Liturgist** – Kurt Carlson
Greeters – Julie, Kaitlyn & Sue Jacobson (Scouts)
Ushers – Tony, Christine, Tanner, Connor Blue
Eric Dowe (Scouts)

Sunday, February 18

- Liturgist** – Denny Michel
Greeters – Suzy Hess
Ushers – Nate, Malinda, Riker Warwick
Chase and Skylar Blagg
Sunday Brunch – Schaeffer, Frette, Parker, J Miller,
A Miller

Sunday, February 25

- Liturgist** – Claudia Pauk
Greeters – Val & Camile Hubert
Bill & Susan Mardock
Ushers – Adam & Owen Hubert
Carroll Brekke, Gene Schaeffer

Bulletin folders –

Erma Schaeffer (Feb 2 & 9)
Susan Mardock (Feb 16 & 23)

Newsletter folders –

Susan Mardock, Erma Schaeffer,
Velda Frette (Wed., Feb. 28)



Our Prayers

Family and friends of Pat Wilson; George Mackey; Karen Keech; Tim (Becky Barclay's brother); Julie Jacobson; Denny Michel; Sara Dappen; Lois Johnson; Rich Iverson; Cooper Leeman; Taylor family in Africa.

Our Presence

Attendance Jan 7 – Jan 28:

Worship: 364 Total – 91 avg
S. School: 98 Total – 24 avg

Our Gifts

Offering – Jan. 7 – Jan 28:
\$14,069.61

Our Service

♥ Thank you to all the volunteers who helped take down all the Christmas decorations – 35 minutes has to be a record! Those involved included: Christine Semler-Blue, Rod & Sue Bohner, Kurt & Denise Carlson, Dave & Marlene Doolittle, Eric Dowe, Tori Fournier, Shelly & Luccas Hart, Jim & Shelley Hassebrock, Mark & Cathy Hermanson, Kevin & Candi Holm, Craig & Savanna Jensen, Denny, Gini, & Caleb Michel, Judy Miller, Claudia Pauk, Loretta Parker, Cheryl Semler, Brett, Laila & Gabby Tesdall, Beckey & Jori Witthuhn.

♥ Thank you to Cheryl Semler who took care of keeping our poinsettias looking lush and beautiful through Epiphany Sunday

♥ Thank you to volunteers who took a turn serving as *Wheelchair Captains* in January: Hubert & Rae Bicklehaupt, Louis & Tep Reeder, Owen & Gloria Sampson, Nancy Uran, Andrea & Savannah Jensen, Dwain & Charlie Watts, Shelly, Jarrod & Luccas Hart, Blake & Riley Larson, Isabel Hoskins, Jori Witthuhn, Dylan & Emmerson Kahl, Skylar Blagg, Suzy Hess, Kevin & Candi Holm, Kevin & Linda Larson, David & Mary Loupee, Mike & Christine Marti

Our Witness

♥ We appreciate our January liturgists Cathy Hermanson, Terry Gustason, Kurt Carlson, Denny Michel

UMW News

By Terry Gustason



The United Methodist Women of Grace Church met January 10, 2018 at 1:30. There were 12 members present. Sue Bohner and Judy Miller were absent due to the buying of supplies for the Food

Pantry. Grace UMW is in charge of the pantry for 2018 and Sue and Judy are co-chairs. New officers for UMW for 2018 are President, Gloria Sampson; Vice-President, Claudia Pauk; Secretary, Terry Gustason; and Treasurer, Sharla Mander.

Claudia Pauk and guest, Marsha Taylor present a program on re-establishing the Center Cemetery Society. This gave us some insight into the beginnings of our church. They gave an interesting and entertaining program especially with the reading of the beginning by-laws. We were informed on just how important pickles have been and still are to our UMW! At present the society is following the by-law of improving and beautifying the Center cemetery in every way possible. Through some creative birthday party planning they recently purchased 3 maple and 3 linden trees and have future projects planned.

Patsy Jensen was hostesses and Sharla Mander conducted a Pledge worship service.

Bidwell Riverside Center sent a nice letter thanking us for our end of year donation. Several notes thanking us for our Christmas cookie visit were received from Sara Dappen, Dorothy Appelgate, Leota Berg, Helen Johnson, June Williams, and Joan Doolittle. A Christmas letter was also received from our former member Alice Riley who now lives in Indianola, IA.

Gloria reported that UMW had served lunches at the senior citizen center in December and helped with wheelchair duty at Bethany Life on Sunday, January 7th.

We have received 2 of the books from our 2018 Reading Program – Massacre at Sand Creek and Born on Third Base. On Pluto is on back order.

Nancy reminded us that she is still collecting Box Tops for Education and also stamps that can be placed in the container in kitchen.

Our 2018 Mission Focus will be Educational Kits (contents listed in back of our program book) and we will discuss making the bags at upcoming meetings.

Next month our meeting is on Valentine's Day February 14 and we will be having a party hosted by the four officers. Be sure and wear red!!



3rd Sunday Brunch



Our January Sunday Brunch was enjoyed by a crowd of 59 people. Sharla Mander, Cheryl Semler, Gini Michel, and G.R.A.C.E. Team G members hosted this month. Just over \$343.25 for Bible Camp Scholarships for our Grace kids. Please join us February 18th when Sharla's team and members of Team E will serve Egg Bake and proceeds will go to the Taylor Family in Africa Ministry.

You're Invited!



We're planning a Valentine Grace Church Family Pot luck lunch with games for Sunday, February 11th at

11:00 and YOU are invited! Please join us for a fun time on a cold winter afternoon as we fellowship together over a meal and a few games. A sign-up sheet for what you would like to bring for the meal is located on the north table in the narthex hallway, just outside the sanctuary.

We're planning games and special activities for folks of all ages to play. And yes, fabulous prizes will be part of the fun! So please, mark your calendar and plan to join us for a time of great fun and fellowship on February 11th!

Touch of Grace Bells on YouTube!



Did you know the Touch of Grace Bell Choir is on YouTube? Thanks to Chris and Kate Feil, anyone can enjoy our bell choir just by clicking on the link printed below. Thank you, Feils! Current members of our bell choir include: Judy Brekke, director, Kate Feil,

Claudia Pauk, Paula Sampson (Harvest), Brenda Meier (Immanuel), Amy Oleson (Bergen), Beckey Witthuhn, Cathy Hermanson, Milianna Carlson (Immanuel), Cheryl Semler, Becky Senti, Steph Fournier, Gayle Naglak (Harvest), Abby Hoff.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/touchofgracebells>

New North Central District Superintendent.



Bishop Laurie Haller has announced that Rev. Carol Kress will become the superintendent of the North Central District beginning July 1, 2018. Rev. Kress succeeds Rev. Harlan Gillespie who will assume new responsibilities as the Assistant to the Bishop for Administration also beginning on July 1.

Ordained as an elder and elected into full membership in the Iowa Conference in

1991, Rev. Kress is pastor of Gladbrook United Methodist. Previously, she has served the Nishna Valley Parish; Emerson-Hastings-Wesley Chapel; Williamsburg; Decorah, First; and Solon.

"Like moist clay in a potter's hand, all of us are works in progress. I am thankful for the churches that I have served and ministry we have shared. Now my discipleship will be fashioned into a new form," said Rev. Kress. "But I am reminded that Christians are creatures of the future, 'What we shall become has not yet been revealed,' (1 John 3:2). My prayer is to stand with the people and leaders of the churches in the North Central District as they too are shaped by the potter's hands."

"Rev. Kress is a gifted preacher and missional strategist who has had a track record of fruitful ministry in local churches for 29 years," said Bishop Laurie Haller. "Carol has a compassionate heart, is a deep listener, and works tirelessly to be present not only to her parishioners but to the community in which she serves."

Time to Think About Church Camp



Camp registration for the 2018 season is officially open! Come join us at Lake Okoboji, Pictured Rocks, or Wesley Woods Camp and Retreat Centers for an Adventure of a Lifetime! Registration

information can be found at www.iaumc.org/camps, or by calling the camp registrar at 1-800-765-1651.



Scout Sunday is Feb. 11th!



Scout Sunday at Grace is February 11th and we're looking forward to having 7 in-house girl and boy scouts help with our worship experience that morning!

Our young Scouts include:

Tori Fournier, 16– Ambassador Scout
Venturing Scout

Jarod Hart, 14 – Life Scout

Luccas Hart, 10 – Webelo 2

Ella Hensch, 6 – Daisy Scout

Owen Hubert, 8 – Wolf Scout

Savannah Jensen, 5 – Daisy Scout

Charlie Watts, 10 – Webelo 2 Scout

Thank You!



Thank you very much for participating in the 2017 Roland-Story Angel Gift program. The program helped 84 children from 34 different families have a merry Christmas.

Thank you,
Alyssa Loots
RS Elementary School

UMC IOWA Conference



Here are some Conference dates to keep in mind:

March 17, 2018 - North Central District Conference - Webster City, Faith UMC - 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

May 6, 2018 - Pre Annual Conference Session - Webster City, Asbury UMC - 2:30 PM-5:00 PM

2017 Statistical Reporting - Due February 28, 2018

2017 Fund Balance Report - Due March 1, 2018

2018 Annual Conference - Annual Conference 2018 will be held June 9-11.

Thanksgiving Ingathering News

January 16, 2018

To the United Methodists of Iowa,

We did not quite make our million dollar target in 2017. We still had a wonderful Ingathering day with everyone participating. **A big thank you** to those who helped in the kitting areas and worked at the various activities at each site. The two UMCOR trucks brought 64,000 lbs. of kits to Baldwin, LA.



We are proud that 2018 will be our 39th year of following God's expectations.

We are still amazed how well the five sites (Cedar Falls, Cherokee, Greenfield, Mt Pleasant and Webster City) work together throughout the year to make each Ingathering a success. In addition to the kits and other in kind items, we support Church World Service, Heifer International, Self-Help International, and Mobility World Wide of Hawarden (formerly called P. E. T.). We are able to donate more funds to the eight districts this year because we had all the data available to make a better decision. The task force has set undesignated funds for 2017 Ingathering to each of our eight districts of \$6,250 for distribution to local food pantries and other hunger alleviation agencies.

UMCOR has changed how they are assisting countries outside the United States. There will be no overseas shipments starting in 2018. **Therefore the only kits they are asking for in 2018 are CLEANING KITS, SCHOOL KITS (WITH OR WITHOUT BAGS OR BAGS ONLY) AND HYGIENE KITS.** At this time, the Ingathering will not be collecting cleaning kits unless another U. S. disaster happens. We pray this does not happen.

Each host site is just that, a host. They need the cooperation of **all of our churches** to make Saturday, November 3, 2018 a success. Each site needs volunteers to help set up, serve meals, run bazars, auctions and bake sales, taking care of the vouchers and funds, packing kits and loading of the UMCOR trucks. To help, contact your site's contact person [listed in this booklet](#).

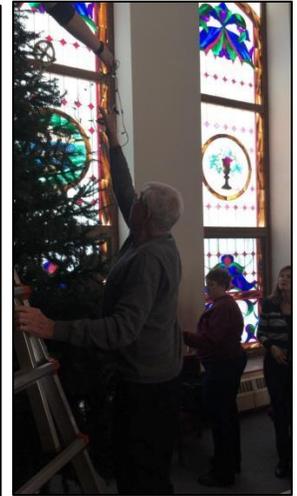
Let's make 2018 another success with a goal of over \$1,000,000.00. We are always looking for people to serve on the Thanksgiving Ingathering Task Force. We have two meetings a year in Des Moines.

Thanksgiving Ingathering Task Force
Harvey and Mary Davis, Coordinators
1-800-228-2853
mhdavis@windstream.net



January Pictures of Grace

Pictures shared by Mark Hermanson, Denise Carlson, Gloria Sampson, Sharla Mander



Busy workers and delightful UMW Program Presenters





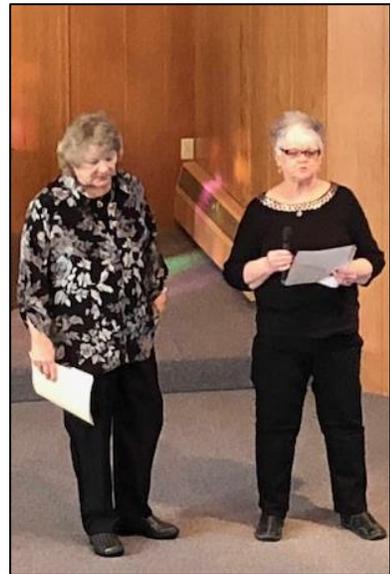
Rhonda



Ray



Pastor Fred and Denny



Sue and Judy



Children's Choir in the House!

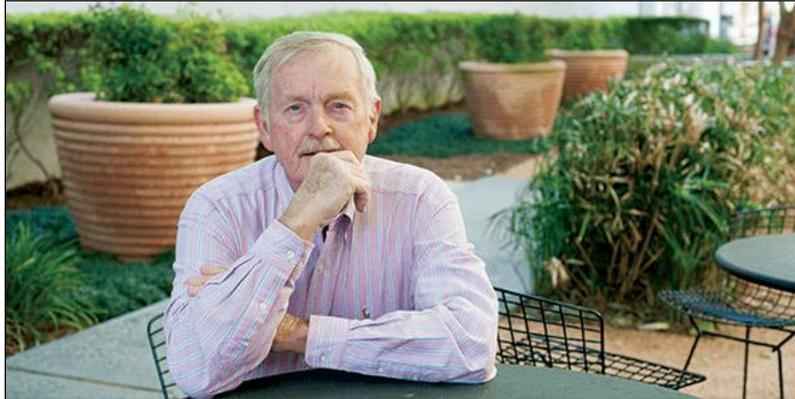


Passing the Peace





GIFT ANNUITY FOR REAL ESTATE -- CASE STUDY



Jonathan purchased a home many years ago for \$80,000. The home has appreciated substantially over the years and is now worth \$420,000. Jonathan has decided to sell his home and move to a retirement community. However, he recognizes that even after using his \$250,000 home exclusion, he will still face high capital gain tax from the sale of the property. Jonathan has been a volunteer at his favorite charity and would like to find a way to sell the home, avoid tax and make a gift to us.

Jonathan: My home has turned out to be a good investment, but now that my spouse is gone, I would like to spend more time with family. I recognize that if I sold my home I would pay high capital gains tax. I'm looking for a way to reduce the tax on the sale of my home and obtain a little more income for retirement. I don't need a lot to live on, but I do like to spoil the grandchildren. I also like the idea of fixed income that won't fluctuate with changes in the market.

Jonathan called the charity and discovered that he could transfer his home in exchange for a large fixed annuity payment, based upon his age. Because the home was extremely marketable, it could be sold quickly by the charity, and Jonathan would avoid capital gains on the sale portion. His home exclusion could be used to offset the remaining capital gain on the income he received from the annuity contract.

Jonathan: I decided to transfer my home to my favorite charity in exchange for the gift annuity and was delighted with the results. I avoided tax on the sale of my home and was able to receive a large annuity payment for my retirement. Best of all, because the payment was fixed, I did not have to worry about market fluctuations. Now, I can spend as much time with the grandchildren as I want!

Grace's Endowment Committee encourages you to consider the various ways your giving can help to **Endow Grace**, preserving the future of our Church.

Please contact the church office at 515-733-4712 or office@grace-umc.com or visit our website at <http://www.grace-umc.com/endowgrace.aspx> .

Alternatively, you may wish to have a bequest included in your will. The language below shows how a bequest can easily become part of your estate planning. Please feel free to give this information to your attorney.

Example bequest language - Please feel free to change the numbers or percentages as you desire.

1. Bequest of cash

"I bequeath the sum of \$10,000 to Grace United Methodist Endowment Fund of Story City."

2. Bequest of a percent of the estate

"I devise and bequeath 20% of the remainder and residue of property owned at my death, whether real or personal, and wherever located to Grace United Methodist Endowment Fund of Story City."

3. Contingent Bequest

"If my brother John Doe survives me, I devise and bequeath 20% of the remainder and residue of property owned at my death, whether real or personal, and wherever located to John Doe. If John Doe does not survive me, then I devise and bequeath 20% of my residuary estate, whether real or personal property and wherever located to Grace United Methodist Endowment Fund of Story City."



FEBRUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 	3
4 Gloria 9:15 Worship – Choir Communion 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School	5 5:30 Education	6 	7 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	8	9	10 
11 <u>Scout Sunday</u> Kurt 8:00 Trustees 9:15 Worship - Bells 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday school & Confirmation 11:00 Valentine Pot Luck	12 5:30 SPRC 7:00 Worship	13 7:00 PEO – Fellowship Hall	14 ASH WEDNESDAY  7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	15 	16	17 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Managing Conflict Workshop at Fairview Lodge
18 Denny 9:15 Worship - Choir 10:15 Brunch 10:30 Sunday School	19 	20	21 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	22	23	24
25 Claudia 9:15 Worship – Children's Bells 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School & Confirmation	26 5:30 Finance 6:30 Council	27 	28 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	Looking Ahead: March 2 – World Day of Prayer March 12-16 Spring Break March 25 – Palm Sunday (Children carry palms, sing) March 29 – Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 pm. April 1 – EASTER SUNDAY!		

