



The Grace Church Visitor

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

Palm Sunday at Grace!



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

If you would like to

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our mailing or e-mailing list

*correct your address

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The Visitor...

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Grace = God's Riches At Christ's Expense

April Birthdays



Kylie Spencer	4-9
Louis Reeder	4-9
Eric Hart	4-10
Tori Fournier	4-12
Mike Jensen	4-21
Charlie Fournier	4-21
Arris Richardson	4-25
Sarah Hults	4-25

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

April Lectionary

April 1

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18

April 8

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133;
1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31;

April 15

Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4;
1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

April 22

Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23;
1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

April 29

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31;
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

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.

HE IS RISEN

Forgiven

For God so Loved the World

LAMB of God

love

He is Risen Indeed

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY

HALLELUJAH

Eternal Life

Redeemer

my savior



From Our Pastor

Fred Darbonne

April 2017

I had no idea that I would get so attached to my cat. (No, really!) I'm still new at this pet thing. I've only had my buddy a little over a year, and I haven't had one since I was a kid. He has a name, but it's only used at the veterinarian's office. I simply and affectionately call him "Kitty." I notice that everywhere I am, there he must be as he follows me around. I've gotten used to having him nearby. If I haven't seen him for a bit I go looking for him. Sometimes he will voluntarily snuggle next to me on the couch or join me in the chair while I'm reading.



A curious, yet endearing thing he does is roll over when I approach him and gently say, "Kitty, Kitty." He rolls onto his side, stretches out his legs, and waits for me to rub him along his rib cage. Then he rolls over on his back so I can rub his neck, chest, and belly, followed by a roll to the other side so that I don't miss that area while I'm at it. It's as if he wants to make sure he gets all his benefits, and his smoothly running "purr" motor confirms his satisfaction.

I remembered a cat-loving friend once telling me that cats instinctively protect their undersides because their vulnerable vital organs are there. A Google search informed me that this protective stance is normal for animals in the wild, so if a cat exposes this area to you, it can be a way of telling you that he trusts you unconditionally and loves you. I hope this is so; he certainly is warmer to me now than in the first few months of our relationship. I guess I was on trial and had to earn being on his good side.

I wish it were that easy to trust God when we are faced with change. It seems that we also instinctively protect ourselves and try to hide our vulnerable areas. Change can make us feel exposed. But we can be confident that the one who promised never to leave us nor forsake us will bring us to the other side of present experience (Joshua 1:9; Hebrews 5b-6). God can use change to open us to new possibilities, ones we never would have recognized or considered on our own. No wonder Romans 8:28 is such a beloved verse, turned to often in time of transition and change: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (NIV).

2018 Confirmation Class



Confirmation Day is on Sunday, April 22nd. We are so proud of these four young men and their work and the commitment they are making in their personal walk with God.

Chase Blagg, Connor Blue, Tanner Blue, Mychal Spencer

A reception in honor of our confirmands will be held in Fellowship Hall following the worship service.

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

Dale & Lynn Henricks, chair

Mark & Joan Barrett, Melissa Brown, Kurt & Denise Carlson, Helen & Donyel Caruth, Chris & Kate Feil, Alex & Amy Franco, Josh & Val Gregori, Chuck & Shirley Harreld, Andrea Jensen, Brian & Charlotte Jensen, Craig Jensen, Mike & Patsy Jensen, LeRoy & Priscilla Johnson, Brent & Jody Larson, Kevin & Linda Larson, Vena Mae Larson, Duane & Sharon Matson, Kermit Miskell, Claudia Pauk, Louis & Tep Reeder, Owen & Gloria Sampson, Sam & Becky Senti, Dan & Marilyn Webster

Special Charge Conference



With all of our work to retire apportionment debt last year, we have just under \$11,000 remaining due from 2014. Our Finance Committee prepared

the paperwork to have that debt forgiven by the Conference. In order to expedite the process, a Charge Conference must be called to get congregational approval to submit the request. **On Monday, April 2nd, you are invited to a casserole buffet supper at 6:00 p.m. and a special Charge Conference at 6:30 p.m.** to vote on our application for apportionment debt forgiveness.

Thank You!



Dear Friends,

The shawl is a warm embracement of choosing to care for one another. It is a period of more than 70 years since we made Story City our home.

Bob & I came to our neighborhood as youthful! and now I am by far the most elderly in our neighborhood of good neighbors.

The colors of the shawl are very appealing and restful. I enjoy using it. My great-grands know it must be very difficult to make such a nice gift.

Thank you for your prayers and friendship.

With love, Vena Mae Larson



April Volunteers

Sunday, April 1 EASTER

Liturgist – Kurt Carlson
Greeters – Owen & Gloria Sampson
Ushers – Mike & Patsy Jensen, Dale & Lynn Henricks

Sunday, April 8

Liturgist – Terry Gustason
Greeters – Mike & Patsy Jensen
 Dan & Marilyn Webster
Ushers – Kurt Carlson, Andrea Jensen
 Alex & Amy Franco

Sunday, April 15

Liturgist – Gloria Sampson
Greeters – Tep & Louis Reeder
 Craig & Savannah Jensen
Ushers – Chris & Kate Feil
 Priscilla & Leroy Johnson

Sunday Brunch –

Becky Senti, Priscilla Johnson, Lynn Henricks

Sunday, April 22 - CONFIRMATION

Liturgist – Tanner Blue
Greeters – Kevin and Linda Larson
Ushers – Kurt Carlson, Craig Jensen
 Mike & Patsy Jensen

Sunday, April 29

Liturgist – Claudia Pauk
Greeters – Mark & Joan Barrett
 Craig & Savannah Jensen
Ushers – Dale & Lynn Henricks
 Duane & Sharon Matson

Bulletin and Newsletter folders – April 5/6 Priscilla Johnson; April 12/13 Tep Reeder; April 19/20 Priscilla Johnson; April 26/27 Lynn Henricks **NEWSLETTER - April 26** – Dale & Lynn Henricks, Mike & Patsy Jensen

Sanctuary Clock

Many thanks to Cheryl and Chuck Semler for repairing the mid-century modern style clock in the sanctuary. The clock, which is installed in the balcony railing above the center aisle, was missing hands, though it still seemed to run. For several years, another clock has been hung over the top of the original time piece. The Semlers ordered replacement hands, touched up paint on the number markers and re-installed the clock in March.



Our Prayers

Caleb Michel; Vena Mae Larson; Jackie Royer (Sharla's friend); George Mackey; Tim (Becky Barclay's brother); Denny Michel; Julie Jacobson; Sara Dappen; Norman Patti; Pam Hillis; Lois Johnson; Cooper Leeman, Taylor family in Africa

Our Presence

Attendance March 4 – March 25:
Worship: 350 Total – 88 avg
S. School: 84 Total – 28 avg

Our Gifts

Offering – March 4 – March 25:
\$8716.55

Our Service



Thank you to all of the people who so faithfully serve on committees and in other special ways here at Grace. Wonderful things continue to happen here because of people who take a look around and take the time to do special smaller projects for the benefit of us all.

Our Witness



We appreciate our March liturgists Kurt Carlson, George Janvrin, Gloria Sampson, Cheryl Semler. Also our liturgist, readers and acolytes at our Maundy Thursday service – Patsy Jensen, Rod Bohner, Sue Bohner, Isabel Hoskins, Riker Warwick.



We are so thankful for the special music of Jori Witthuhn, Isabel Hoskins, Riley Larson and Luccas Hart on Palm Sunday! These four have been selected to participate in an area honor choir of 5th-6th grade students.



UMW News



The United Methodist Women of Grace United Methodist Church met Wednesday, March 14, 2018 with 15 members present. President, Gloria Sampson opened the meeting with a prayer followed by the Women's Purpose.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and approved.

A thank you from Alyssa Loots of the Angel Tree Program was read.

Gloria presented a Mission Moment of Call to Prayer and Self Denial. She talked of the many programs supported by the United Methodist Women offering help to women, youth and children. The Hope Foundation helping low income woman in Kenya; GUM in San Francisco helping Asian immigrants and a program in Oklahoma helping single moms.

Marilyn Webster presented a program on the book, On Pluto by Greg O'Brian. We ordered this book for our reading program but it is on back order and we are unsure we will receive it. He talks of his day to day living with Alzheimer's Disease. He refers to it as a thin sliver of brain shaved off each day. The Huffington Post reports that one in three people are caring for or are a victim of Alzheimer's. It was a very thoughtful and at times humorous account of his daily life.

Gloria reminded us of Day of Giving, March 23.

We now have three sewing machines cleaned and with needles for use in our "bag" project plus an ironing board, iron and cutting mat. We will meet on Wednesday, March 28 at 9:30 to begin our project.

Claudia Pauk said as treasurer of Food Pantry she has noticed a change in amount written for bills thanks to new policies begun by Sue Bohner and Judy Miller. She wrote check for \$3,000 for December expenses, \$1,600 for January expenses and \$697 for February expenses. We were encouraged to say thank you to Story City Market for all the help they are giving the Food Pantry. Gini Michel donated a grocery cart that is in place in the narthex along with a list of items needed.

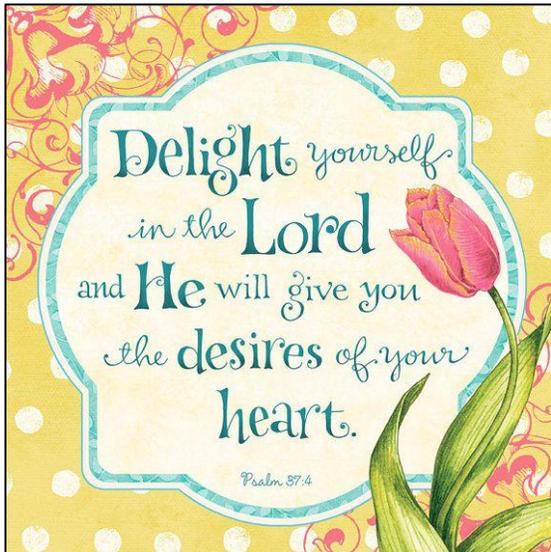
Discussion was held on the cinnamon rolls project to be held on Sunday, May 13. Judy Miller is heading this project with helpers Gloria, Patsy, Claudia, Sue, Tep and Sharla. They will make 400 rolls and packaged by six in a package for sale. Profits will help with the in-gathering in November.

Claudia handed out coloring sheets with scripture from Luke 23: 26-49.

Nancy Uran was hostess.

Our next meeting will be April 11, Mission Moment - Patsy Jensen; Program - Erma Schaeffer; and Hostess - Tep Reeder.





New Pastor Announced



So what have you heard about the new pastor?

My name is Jonathan Cooney. I go by Jonathan. I like to read, do crossword puzzles, walk, listen to music, and write science fiction stories. I enjoy discovering fresh insights into Scripture for preaching and teaching. Before I entered the ministry I taught high school social studies and journalism briefly. My interest in history led me to complete a PhD in church history from Boston University.

Although I am a member of the Missouri Conference, I am serving Thompson United Methodist Church in the East Ohio Conference. Some day you'll hear the whole story, but it involves the death of my wife, Linda, from cancer three years ago and my desire to stay near my daughter. Catherine now works at the public library in Ames. She graduated from ISU in 2011. I plan on making Iowa my home.

My father was an air force chaplain and I was always involved in the church. I was a leader in my youth group and people told me I would be a pastor someday.

God has let me do a lot of things over the years but he's always brought me back to the pulpit. I have been appointed to be your pastor. May it be a blessing to all of us.

3rd Sunday Brunch



Our March Sunday Brunch was enjoyed by a crowd of 59 people. Sharla Mander, Cheryl Semler, Gini Michel, and G.R.A.C.E. Team C members hosted this month. Just over \$490.05 was raised for the Heifer Project. BUT, a special matching grant to Heifer will make the value of our gift \$980.10! Thank you, as always, for your generosity in giving to all of our special mission projects. Please join us for our final brunch until September on April 15th when Sharla's team and members of Team L will serve baked French toast and proceeds will go to the P.E.T. project.

Bible Camp Help



If you or your children/youth are interested in attending a Methodist Bible Camp this summer there are brochures on the hall table in the Narthex.

Grace Church will pay 50% of camp tuition if you attend a UMC camp and 25% if you attend another church camp.

If you're in need additional financial help, please contact Gini Michel (gem47@mediacombb.net / 733 - 4123).

To receive reimbursement, you need to provide Gini / office with a copy of your registration documentation.

A Note of Thanks



I am home now – get about with a walker and really miss attending church. “Thru it All” – a hymn that went thru my mind many nights when I was at Bethany Manor.

Love,
Sara (Dappen)

Summer Music



Claudia Pauk and Cathy Hermanson will soon be working on special music for our summer worship services. If you would be willing to share your special

music gifts in this way, please contact either of the women. Here are the summer Sundays:

- May 29** Memorial Sunday
- June 03** Scandi Days weekend
- June 10**
- June 17** Father's Day
- June 24** Pastor Fred's last Sunday with us
- July 01** New Pastor's First Day at Grace
- July 08**
- July 15**
- July 22**
- July 29**
- Aug. 05**
- Aug. 12**
- Aug. 19**
- Aug. 26**
- Sept 02** Labor Day weekend



Pictures of Grace

Palm Sunday 2018



*Adults who would prefer their picture not appear in Grace Church publications (TWAG, Visitor, Website, Facebook) should let the church office know. The Communications committee will do their best to honor that request.

Lilies for Remembrance



Our sanctuary was graced on Easter morning by families sharing beautiful Easter Lily plants in remembrance and honor of precious loved ones.

In memory of

**Homer & Myrtle Brown
Doc & Vera Semler
Gene Brown**

by Chuck & Cheryl Semler

Russell (Butch) & Diane Clayberg

by Mark & Cathy Hermanson

Rosalind Hess

Bill, Suzy, Jeremy Hess
Ashley, Raelyn & Sawyor Miller

Gary & Renee Hubert

By Adam & Valerie Hubert

Charles Jewell, Alma Carlson

By Denise & Kurt Carlson

Rodney Johnson

by Lois Johnson

Bud and Florence Mason

By Janet & Ken Schuck and Annie & Lily Larson

Jerry Miller

By Judy Miller

**Grandpa Allen, Grandma Willie, Grandma Honey,
Grandpa Leonard, Grandma & Grandpa Hobbs**

by Riker Warwick

Our parents – Frederica & Paul and Bea & LeRoy

By Rick & Grace Welke

In honor of

Cora Mae Hermanson

by Mark & Cathy Hermanson



March Pictures of Grace

Pictures shared by Cathy Hermanson,



Snow didn't diminish our Palm Sunday Joy!





LEADING FOR THE FUTURE -- CASE STUDY



Luke and Candice spent many years volunteering and supporting their favorite charity. They wanted to give back in a way that would help fulfill its mission. At the same time, they were looking for a way to care for their family in the future.

Luke: We heard that with new lower rates, now is the best time in years to set up a charitable lead trust. We could fund the trust with cash or stock and this trust would pay income to the charity for a number of years with the rest of the trust value going to our children in the future.

Candice: We liked the fact that our children would be well cared for and that we could see the result now of our gifts to our favorite charity.

Luke and Candice were also pleased to learn that taxes on the gift to their children would be significantly reduced by the added benefit of a gift tax charitable deduction. After the income was paid to our organization, the remaining trust value would go to their family with very little tax owed.

Luke: Candice and I found that by using a charitable lead trust we could accomplish our goals of helping both family and our favorite charity during our lifetimes.

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."



April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 9:15 Worship 10:15 Coffee Fellowship	2 6:30 Special Charge Conference	3 	4 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	5	6 	7
8 8:00 Trustees 9:15 Worship 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday school Confirmation practice	9 5:30 SPRC 7:00 Worship	10	11 1:30 UMW 6:00 Confirmation picture 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	12 	13	14
15 9:15 Worship 10:15 3 rd Sunday Brunch 10:30 Sunday school	16 	17	18 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	19	20	21  April 22
22 CONFIRMATION 9:15 Worship Communion 10:15 Reception for our Confirmands 10:30 Sunday school	23 5:30 Finance 6:30 Council	24	25 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	26	27 	28
29 9:15 Worship 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday school	30 	Looking ahead: May 6 – Music Sunday May 13 – Mother’s Day – Cinnamon Roll Sales May 20 – Last Day of Sunday school May 27 – Memorial Sunday				

