



March 2, 2018

Greetings friends,

Wow! What a difference a week makes! Last week I was moaning about winter stuff and this week I'm here to rhapsodize about early signs of spring. I like this week better.

As the temperatures rise and all the snow and ice melt away, Trixie and I are enjoying longer tours about our yard. We aren't seeing much green yet, but boy oh boy, we are hearing lots of beautiful birdsong. We're keeping our eyes peeled for robins and other harbingers of a new season.

In the last few days, three different friends have gleefully pointed out that daylight savings begins a week from Sunday. It seems Trixie and I aren't the only ones getting antsy for the warmth and wonder of spring.

This Week at Grace –Pastor Fred's message, *Cleaning House* is inspired by John 2:13-22. The Chancel Choir will sing, *This is Our Story*. We will celebrate Communion. *Greeters this week are Shirley Frandson and Chuck & Ruby Matheason. Those serving as ushers include David & Mary Loupee and Tim & Kim Tryon. Kurt Carlson will serve as Liturgist.* Worship begins at 9:15 with Coffee Fellowship at 10:15. Sunday school will meet at 10:30. Please join us!

All Grace Church Lay Leaders including the Church Council are encouraged to attend the **North Central District Conference & Building Church Leadership Event set for Saturday, March 17th from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Faith UMC in Webster City.** An article in the monthly District newsletter has this message from DS Harlan Gillespie:

This will give clergy and lay leadership from local churches a chance to meet before the busyness of spring after Easter.

I expect all clergy serving local churches to be present along with laity from their local churches, such as members of their councils/boards. In addition, lay members to Annual Conference, UMW and UMM leaders of their local churches, elected leaders for district and conference committees, boards, and agencies, and all active and retired pastors and pastors on leaves of absence are encouraged to attend the district conference with voice and vote.

This year's conference will act on 2018-2019 nominations, receive reports, celebrate ministries and persons who are making a difference for Jesus Christ in their local communities and/or around the world, and include Building Leadership Connections on topics such as: Administrative Council/visioning, Trustees, Finance, SPRC, Christian Education and Youth.

We will also have special information concerning Lay Servant Ministries and Conference Apportionment giving everyone will want to be sure to hear and see.

Grace Church is responsible for leading work at the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in 2018 and we need lots of volunteers to help. 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.

Wanted – Old, working sewing machines you no longer use. The machines will be kept at the church for use on mission projects.

Help Needed – We need a Grace Church member to serve as a delegate to the Bethany Life Communities Annual Meeting. The meeting is set for 6:00 p.m on Thursday, April 26th – appetizers served at 5:30. Please let Pastor Fred know if you are able to serve in this capacity.

March/April Upper Rooms are available in the narthex. We've changed our subscription and only get the larger print copies now.

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:
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, Taylors in Africa

News You Can Use

Sunday, March 4

9:15 AM Worship – choir, Communion
10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship
10:30 AM Sunday school

Monday, March 5

5:30 PM Communication
6:30 PM Education

Wednesday, March 7

7:00 PM Choir
8:00 PM Bells

Saturday, March 10

Turn your clocks ahead one hour at bedtime

Sunday, March 11

9:15 AM Worship – bells
10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship
10:30 AM No Sunday school
Confirmation class meets

**Faithfully,
Cathy**