



March 9, 2018

Greetings friends,

We're in the middle of the Lenten season and I find myself thinking about 6th grade Sunday school with Pat Nolan. You know I treasure my childhood at Grace and Pat is one of the many reasons why. What a wonderful man. For those of you who never had the opportunity to know him, he and his wife Marie were beloved. They had a farm south of town where they raised strawberries and popcorn and pumpkins (and probably corn and beans, too). People were invited out in late spring and again in the fall to pick their own berries and pumpkins. A gift of homegrown popped corn or popcorn balls from the Nolan's was a special holiday treat. Their children were grown by the time I knew the Nolan's. Someone must have lived out in Utah, because I remember Pat and Marie went out that way every year. They were also rock hounds and always had a display in their front yard of special stones they had collected in their travels.

What got me thinking about Pat, though, was his explanation of how the date we celebrate Easter each year is determined. It isn't like Christmas that is always December 25th. Nope, the date for Easter is set for the Sunday following the first full moon that falls on or after the spring equinox. To determine when the Lenten season begins (Ash Wednesday), count back 46 days. I found that information so fascinating that nearly 50 years later, the lesson stays with me. Also, we learned the prime time to plant potatoes is on Good Friday. I can't say I've ever personally applied that bit of wisdom, but I remember it.

I guess my point is that in small, often not necessarily conscious ways we impact those around us. Pat was just teaching 6th grade Sunday school (he called it catechism) and humbly sharing his special gifts and abilities. He did it for years and enriched many young minds and lives through his work. When I talk about our Grace Church family, I'm not only talking about those who we get to worship and work and spend time with today, but also all the special people who came before and all who will follow. That is family.

This Week at Grace –Pastor Fred's message, *The Symphony of Grace* is inspired by Ephesians 2:1-10 (NIV). The Touch of Grace Bell Choir will play, *Open My Eyes*. Greeters this week are Shirley Frandson and Sue Bohner. Those serving as ushers include George Janvrin, David Doolittle, Doug Doolittle, Rod Bohner. George Janvrin will serve as liturgist. Worship begins at 9:15 with Coffee Fellowship at 10:15. NO Sunday school but Confirmation class will meet at 10:30. Please join us!



SPRING AHEAD! Please remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour, before going to bed on Saturday night!

Look for the shopping cart in the narthex. It has been placed there to collect food, paper and personal hygiene items you might like to donate to the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry this year. A list of items that are always in shorter supply is posted on the cart. Thank you for your generosity to our local food pantry.

Spring Break is next week. No Sunday school on Sunday, March 11th since many of our students and some teachers will be away. **Confirmation class WILL MEET on March 11th.**

All Grace Church Council members and other interested lay people 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.

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 11

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

Monday, March 12

5:30 PM SPRC
7:00 PM Worship

Wednesday, March 14

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

Saturday, March 17

9:30-11:30 AM NC District Conference at Faith UMC in Webster City

Sunday, March 18

9:15 AM Worship – choir
10:15 AM Sunday Brunch – Biscuits & gravy, Heifer Project
10:30 AM Sunday school

**Faithfully,
Cathy**

Lilies for Remembrance



Let's fill our sanctuary with beautiful Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday. You are invited to bring in a lily plant during Holy Week or on Easter morning. Story City Floral & Garden is selling the plants for \$20 and will deliver them to the church if you ask them. (Deadline for ordering lilies is March 19) *We will not be placing orders through the church office.* If you'd prefer, you may bring a lily of your own. If you want to pay tribute to loved ones either as a memorial for those who have passed or in honor for those who are still with us, simply fill out this form and drop it in the offering plate by Palm Sunday (March 25). *NOTE: Do NOT include money with this form. If ordering your plant through the local florist, please call (515)733-2760 and work with them directly.*

My name _____

of plants _____

In honor/memory of
