



The Grace Church Visitor

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

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

Scouts at Grace!

Picture shared by Shannon McKinley



Jarrod, Dylan, Sawyor, Raelyn, Luccas, Ella, Owen, Savannah



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

What's Inside

- Page 2 – March Birthdays, Mar. Lectionary Readings, From Our Pastor
- Page 3 – March Volunteers, Holy Week services, Easter Lily form
- Page 4 – Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, Witness, UMW News
- Page 5 – Brunch, Valentine Re-cap, Workshop, Confirmation News
- Page 6 – Scout Sunday Re-cap, Pictures of Grace
- Page 7 – Pictures of Grace
- Page 8 – Church Council
- Page 9 – Endowment Article
- Page 10 – March Calendar of Events

Grace = God's Riches At Christ's Expense

March Birthdays



Lilyah Berry	3-2
Jason Haglund	3-3
Nate Warwick	3-5
Mark Hermanson	3-8
Joan Doolittle	3-9
Judy Andrew	3-9
Carissa Myers	3-12
Jakob Lester	3-12
Cathy Gerjets	3-13
Peter Larson	3-14
Haroldean Gorman	3-15
Pat Danger	3-16
Kenny Gookin	3-15
Kevin Whitmore	3-17
Raejean Bicklehaupt	3-18
Nicolas Hofsommer	3-18
Chase Blagg	3-19
Christine Marti	3-26
Ethan Marti	3-26
Steven Richardson	3-27
Isabel Hoskins	3-27
Julie Keech	3-27
Claudia Pauk	3-28
Zane Haglund	3-29

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

March Lectionary

March 4

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

March 11

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

March 18

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12;
Hebrew 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

March 25

Mark 11:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29;
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47

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.

From Our Pastor

Fred Darbonne

March 2018

As I write we are on the heels of a February ice storm that has left streets, sidewalks, trees, and yards coated with ice. Our snow removal contractor called to tell me that the crew was giving up on the ice removal for the day since the temperatures keep dropping and they couldn't get ahead of the freezing water. Typical of late February, it can feel like the winter will never end. I find myself yearning to wear cutoffs and a t-shirt in 75-degree sunny weather, to hear the birds back from their fall migration, to see jonquils and smell hyacinths around the neighborhood. The sensory inputs of Spring are engraved in our memories. These stored sights and smells and sounds and sensations make our longings almost tangible when we languish in a season grown tiresome.



We couldn't long for something we have never experienced. Longings are important because they can help us notice the deeper currents in our hearts. We wouldn't long for Spring unless we had first experienced it. Our yearnings can point out to us what we might be missing, something we might need to pay attention to or reconnect with. When we experience personal winters—and no one is exempt—our thoughts often turn to God and we pray for God's intervention. Sometimes we feel lonely for God, so we might read a scripture, or a devotional, or breathe a prayer. When we miss our congregation, or wonder if God is still present with us, we are experiencing a longing for God. We couldn't feel this way without a relationship with God in the first place. Our yearnings are often God's voice, drawing us back to God, or leading us to notice something we need to attend to. We can be confident that God is always at work; sometimes we just don't pay close enough attention.

Longings can also be signs of hope. God wouldn't give us a deep desire that God did not want to fulfill. It is hopeful to see signs of God's presence in our daily lives. Even nature gives us signs that Spring will always come, whether the sign is the lengthening daylight, the sight of the first Robins, or the encouragement that comes with the start of Daylight Savings Time. We can be sure that with God, our yearnings are never without hope.

WHERE THERE
IS HOPE,
THERE IS *faith*.
WHERE THERE
IS FAITH, *miracles*
HAPPEN.



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

Mark & Cathy Hermanson, chair

David & Becky Barclay, Rod & Sue Bohner, Sara Dappen, David & Marlene Doolittle, Doug Doolittle, Shirley Frandson, Cathy & Greg Gerjets, Terry Gustason, Ray & Rhonda Hampton, Jim & Shelley Hassebrock, Matt & Amber Hoskins, Jenna Hoskins, George Janvrin, Jane Jackson/Fred Larson, Ginny Jewell, Brian & Casey Kahl, Dylan Kahl, David & Mary Loupee, Sharene Lykins, Chuck & Ruby Matheason, Norm & Cindy Spurlock, Tim & Kim Tryon, Rick & Grace Welke, Lon & Beckey Witthuhn

Palm Sunday



Palm Sunday is on March 25th this year. Our young children will enter the sanctuary joyfully waving palm branches as the congregation sings. *Praise Him, Praise Him* in honor of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. A quartet of some of our very talented children will sing "Fairest Lord Jesus" as our special music.

Maundy Thursday Service



Our Maundy Thursday service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 29th. Pastor Fred will lead us in this special service where we will each have the opportunity to nail our special prayer requests to a rustic cross. The Chancel Choir will sing and Communion will be served as we honor Christ's last supper with his disciples. As the service concludes, the lights will be dimmed and all will exit the sanctuary in silence.

Easter Sunday



At our Easter morning service on April 1st, the Chancel Choir will sing and the service will conclude with the singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus" by the choir and any and all who choose to participate in that most joyous celebration of Christ's Resurrection!

March Volunteers

Sunday, March 4

Liturgist – Kurt Carlson
Greeters – Shirley Frandson, Chuck & Ruby Matheason
Ushers – David & Mary Loupee, Tim & Kim Tryon



Sunday, March 11

Liturgist – George Janvrin
Greeters – Shirley Frandson, Sue Bohner
Ushers – George Janvrin, David Doolittle
Doug Doolittle, Rod Bohner

Sunday, March 18

Liturgist – Cathy Hermanson
Greeters – Cindy Spurlock, Chuck & Ruby Matheason
Ushers – David, Becky, Ross, John Barclay

Sunday Brunch – Rhonda Hampton (juice), Cindy Spurlock (milk), Dave Doolittle, Rod & Sue Bohner, Rick & Grace Welke

Sunday, March 25 – Palm Sunday

Liturgist – Cheryl Semler
Greeters – Cindy Spurlock, Amber & Jenna Hoskins
Ushers – Jim & Shelley Hassebrock, Doug Doolittle

Maundy Thursday, March 29

Ushers – David & Mary Loupee, Cathy Hermanson

Newsletter fold & send – Sue Bohner, Cathy Hermanson

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 _____





Our Prayers

George Mackey; Tim (Becky Barclay's brother); Julie Jacobson; Denny Michel; Sara Dappen; Lois Johnson; Rich Iverson; Cooper Leeman; Taylor family in Africa mission

Our Presence

Attendance Feb 4 – Feb 25:
Worship: 340 Total – 85 avg
S. School: 118 Total – 30 avg.

Our Gifts

Offering – Feb 4 – Feb 25:
\$8,272.40

Our Service

 We are thankful for all our members who see a need within our church and then step forward to lend a helping hand and/or a shoulder to lean on. You are what makes our Grace Church family a special blessing and a refuge.

 The *Chancel Choir* is thankful to Treyton Witthuhn and Eric Dowe for sharing their musical gifts with the choir in February. And the *Touch of Grace Bell Choir* also thanks Treyton for stepping in to help in February.

Our Witness

 We appreciate our February liturgists Gloria Sampson, Kurt Carlson, Denny Michel, Claudia Pauk

UMW News



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

Bohner gave the Mission Moment on Loaves and Fishes and Grace Church's opportunity to serve for 2018. Officers are Co-Chairs: Sue Bohner and Judy Miller, Secretary: Valerie Hubert and Treasurer: Claudia Pauk. Sue and Judy are working to improve and revised the program in some areas especially in the voucher program. Sue explained that more money was spent than taken in. Fifteen to twenty families are served weekly with 80-100 individuals served. Sue explained how helpful and willing to help Story City Market and Hy-Vee have been. If an individual buys a case of a product at Story City Market they will donate a second case. Ray Hults donated a refrigerator for the food pantry. Volunteers are needed for pick-up of supplies at the food bank. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex for the Saturdays we help. We discussed having a cart or box available all the time in the Narthex so people could donate supplies. Personal Hygiene and paper products are always needed.

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

Marilyn Webster gave a follow-up on the January program on Center Cemetery. It had been reported that a transient was buried by the cemetery fence and Shirley Frandson's mother-in-law was instrumental in having the body moved to a permanent grave site. Marilyn had researched and found that the transient was Jacob (Jack) Randolph and had died in April 1913. She read his obituary from the October 1913 Story City Herald.

We discussed educational kits again. Gloria suggested that anyone having a sewing machine they didn't use might leave at the church for use and Marilyn said we have fabric for 30 bags. Kits can be assembled without bags. We will continue this discussion at future meetings.

We then celebrated Valentine's Day with a word game, Bible verses, and coloring. Terry Gustason was hostess.

At our March meeting, we will look "inside the mind" of Alzheimer's disease and try to understand what it feels like and work on a project to help those affected.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 14.



3rd Sunday Brunch



Our February 3rd Sunday Brunch was enjoyed by a crowd of 53 people. Sharla Mander, Cheryl Semler, Gini Michel, and Patsy Jensen, Tony Blue and Ashley Miller hosted this month. \$279 was raised for the Taylor Family in Africa Mission! Please join us March 18th when Sharla's team and members of Team C will serve biscuits and gravy and proceeds will go to the Heifer Project.

Loaves & Fishes News



Sue and I would like to say a big thank you for the volunteers over the last two months.

Without your support we would not have been able to meet the requirements to make our mission goals. Thanks for your support: Patsy Jensen, Tep & Louis Reeder, Kevin Holm, Gene Schaefer, Dal Kray, Chuck Semler and Rod Bohner. A refrigerator donated by Ray Hults and assisted by Dave Doolittle. God bless all of you for your support!! Looking forward to working with you and others that have signed up for the rest of the year.

Sincerely,
Sue Bohner & Judy Miller

Valentine Party Recap



Fifty-one people attended our Valentine Potluck Party on February 11th! As is the usual case, a veritable feast of good food was brought in by the wonderful cooks of Grace Church. Conversation was lively and we even had some wonderful piano music for a while – thank you Chase!

After the food was cleared away and the dishes were done, Judy Miller and Tep Reeder led us through two delightful whole-group games that included Valentine-themed prizes! Thank you to

all who came and took part in the fun and to Judy, Tep and Cathy Hermanson who organized the affair. Be watching for another time of pot-luck fellowship later this spring!

Conflict Management Workshop



On Saturday, February 17th, eleven Grace UMC members attended a workshop at Fairview Lodge to learn some strategies for identifying triggers for conflict, how to manage conflict when it arises and where to go for help, if needed. Pastor Fred Darbonne facilitated our work which included small group exercises, a booklet of information and power point slides. Everyone brought good food to share (it was a true Methodist event) for breakfast, lunch and snacks. So, as we learned, we were also well-fed. Members who attended include: Denise & Kurt Carlson, Denny & Gini Michel (and Caleb for a while), Shelley Hassebrock, Loretta Parker, Christine Marti, Tep Reeder, Gloria Sampson, Lorijo Lounsberry and Cathy Hermanson.

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.

2018 Grace Confirmation Class



Our 8th grade students will complete the classroom portion of our Confirmation program on March 25th. The class was led by Pastor Fred with support from Sharla Mander. In addition to bookwork and discussions, the students worked on their faith canvases, submitted sermon notes for 18 services and visited worship services at other denominations. They will have their class pictures taken at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11th. Confirmation Day is set for April 22th during our worship service. Members of the class of 2018 include Chase Blagg, Connor Blue, Tanner Blue and Mychal Spencer.



Scout Sunday Observed

On Sunday, March 11th, 8 Grace Church Scouts and one guest helped with the worship service and conducted a flag ceremony. Thank you to Steph Fournier, Shelly Hart, Andrea Jensen and Shannon McKinley for helping to make this special event happen!

Those participating this year include:

Tori Fournier

(Missed because of flu)

daughter of Steph and Duane Fournier

Jarrold Hart

son of Eric and Shelly Hart

Luccas Hart

son of Eric and Shelly Hart

Ella Hensch

daughter of Jessica and Kristopher Hensch

Owen Hubert

son of Adam and Valerie Hubert

Savannah Jensen

daughter of Craig Jensen & Andrea Jensen

Raelyn Miller

daughter of Ashley Miller

Sawyor Miller

son of Ashley Miller

Charlie Watts

son of Dwain and Erica Watts

Dylan McKinley

(guest)

son of Jeremy and Shannon McKinley



Pictures of Grace

Pictures shared by Sharla Mander, Gloria Sampson, Loretta Parker



Scouts, Bells, and Passing the Peace at Grace!



More Pictures of Grace

Pictures shared by Sharla Mander, Gloria Sampson, Loretta Parker, Fred Darbonne

Valentine Potluck Party



Conflict Management Training Workshop



February Children's Bells



Grace UMC Council Unofficial Minutes February 26, 2017 meeting

Present: Loretta Parker (Chair), Becky Barclay (Finance), Pastor Fred, Denise Carlson (SPRC); Kurt Carlson (Trustees); Terry Gustason (Treasurer), Cheryl Semler (Worship), Gloria Sampson (Missions/UMW); Gini Michel (Education), Cathy Hermanson (Communications/rec. secretary)

Loretta offered a prayer and opened the meeting.

Gini/Cheryl moved the January minutes be accepted. Motion passed.

Finance: Becky reported the paperwork for asking forgiveness on \$10,842.30 apportionment debt from 2014 has been completed and will be submitted. We are current on apportionment giving for 2018. Gloria/Gini moved the report be accepted, motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Fred reported Confirmation Sunday is set for April 22. Chase Blagg will give the Confirmation message that morning. Two of the four boys in the class have not been baptized, if they choose to be confirmed, they can be baptized first before the Confirmation ceremony. The recent Conflict Workshop led by Pastor Fred on February 17 was attended by 11 members of Grace Church. Denise asserted the group gained background information on conflict and its manifestations, gained some new insights in how to handle conflict and considered the workshop a day well spent.

Committee Reports: Ministry Areas

Worship: Cheryl reported Worship Committee believed the recent Scout Sunday was delightful. Brochures for visitors to Grace Church worship services are stored in the drawer of the usher table in the narthex. G.R.A.C.E. Team leaders are to let their team members know and to encourage them to pass out the brochures as needed. 51 people attended the recent Potluck Valentine Party that was planned by Judy Miller, Tep Reeder and Cathy Hermanson. It was deemed a success and requests for another potluck this spring are being considered. Pastor Fred will be on vacation and will miss Music Sunday on May 6, Kurt Carlson agreed to serve as worship leader that morning.

Christian Education: Gini reported all volunteer background checks for everyone who is or may be involved with children and youth at Grace have been completed. Spring Break is March 12-16, there will be no Sunday school classes on March 11 or on Easter Sunday. The Confirmation/Acolyte robes are in need of repair and cleaning. Gini plans to make 4 silk boutonnieres and 4 silk corsages for use for Confirmation class pictures. Pictures for the 2018 class are set for Wednesday, April 11 at 6 p.m. Gini will speak to Confirmation parents about a cake (made by Sharla Mander) reception in Fellowship Hall following the Confirmation service on March 22.

Missions: Gloria reported a lot of hard work is going into the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. She would like to have a grocery cart set in the narthex to receive pantry donations on an ongoing basis. A list of oft needed items will be attached to the cart (always in need of personal hygiene and paper products).

UMW: Gloria reported a first goal of 30 Education Kits has been set and the UMW will lead the effort, though anyone is welcome and encouraged to participate. Fabric is often picked up at Affordables or Overflow in Ames. Gini mentioned a great deal of fabric is stored in the youth room closets if anyone wanted to check to see if any is a suitable weight for bag construction. A request for sewing machines has been made to the congregation. The machines would be stored at the church and used for various mission projects.

Committee Reports: Administrative Area

SPRC: Denise echoed the aforementioned recent Conflict Workshop and Pastor vacation reports given earlier in the meeting.

Leadership Development: Pastor Fred reported a volunteer to serve as Grace Church representative to the Bethany Life Communities Annual meeting is needed. The meeting is set for **Thursday, April 26th at 6 p.m.** with appetizers served at 5:30.

Trustees/Memorial Committee: Kurt reported the Trustees are considering projects at the parsonage and are conducting walk thru to develop a list and priorities. They are working on a 5-year plan with subgroups of 1 and 3 year projects to complete. They continue to study the steeple question (improve/replace) and anticipate a "Save the Steeple" fund-raiser may be held at some point. Wearing his Memorial Committee hat, Kurt reported Grace UMC has received a gift from the Al Rau estate. Two thirds of the gift will go to our Endowment Fund with the final 1/3 to be used at the discretion of the Trustees for church upkeep.

Communications: Cathy reported website updating continues.



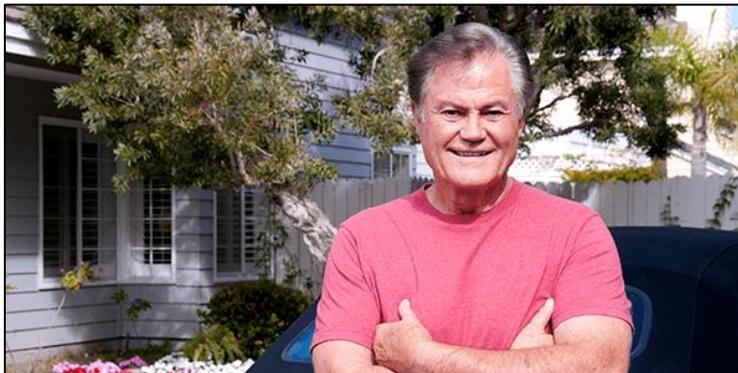
Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting: Monday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Hermanson, Recording Secretary



A BEQUEST TO SAVE TAXES--CASE STUDY



Thomas was a widower who had a great love for our organization. As an individual who had directly benefited from our work, Thomas wanted to thank us with a gift from his estate.

Thomas told his attorney that he wished to make a bequest to his favorite charity. Thomas' estate included some stocks, real estate and an IRA. Thomas' attorney recommended that he give the appreciated stock and real estate to his children and leave his IRA to charity.

Thomas: My attorney told me that if I gave the stock and real estate to my children, these assets would receive a step-up in basis at my death. My children could then sell them without paying tax. However, if I gave my children my IRA, the IRA would be subject to estate and income tax. After paying all of these taxes, very little would be left for my family. By giving the IRA to this organization, I could make a nice gift and avoid any additional tax for my estate and children.

Thomas contacted his IRA custodian to obtain a beneficiary designation form. He filled out the form and designated our organization as the 100% recipient of his IRA account. Thomas' attorney then specified in Thomas' will the bequest of his other assets to his children.

Thomas: I was so impressed with my attorney's advice that I named him executor of my will!

Thomas called and notified us of his bequest. Thomas was pleased that because our organization was a tax exempt institution, it would receive the full amount of the IRA value when he passed away, creating a legacy for the future.

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/endorwgrace.aspx>.

You also may want to make it easy and convenient to have a bequest included in your will. The language below shows how a bequest can very easily be included in your will. 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."



March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:15 Worship - choir 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday school	5 5:30 Communications 6:30 Education	6	7 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	8 	9	10 SPRING AHEAD  Change your clocks!
11 <i>Spring Break -></i> 8:00 Trustees 9:15 Worship - bells 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 NO Sunday school Confirmation meets	12  5:30 SPRC 7:00 Worship	13	14 1:30 UMW 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	15	16	17 
18 8:15 Missions 9:15 Worship - choir 10:15 Brunch 10:30 Sunday school	19	20 	21 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	22	23	24
25 PALM SUNDAY 9:15 Worship - children 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday school & Confirmation	26 5:30 Finance 6:30 Council	27  Holy Week	28 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	29 Maundy Thursday  MAUNDY <i>Thursday</i> 7:00 Worship Service	30 Good Friday 	31 