



April 12, 2018

Greetings friends,

Shhh, I think spring has finally beaten back winter. We seem to be getting some warmer weather again, so it seems like it may be the case, but...shhh.

Saturday marks five years since Mom's Glory Day – one year for brother-in-love, Bruce. It is amazing how quickly time passes. It seems like only yesterday we said good-bye, yet so much has happened in the interim. Our family has grown and flourished in the seasons since Mom went to heaven – 4 weddings and 7 great-grandchildren. For Bruce, a precious, much longed-for new grandbaby arrived last summer.

We've upheld and embellished long-held family traditions as we choose to remain close as a family. (It helps that we siblings all live within an hour and a half of one another.) Appreciating the joy of life is our way of life – a philosophy we all learned to embrace from our beloved Mom (and Dad).

This Sunday, my siblings, our spouses and several kids or grandkids will gather to do some corporate remembering. We'll enjoy a meal together along with the laughter and joy that comes when we are in one another's company. Together we'll view the hundreds of slides Kelly digitized from Mom's and Grandma Myrt's respective collections. We'll be reminded, once again, how the circle of life continues to turn. And we'll give thanks that, in that turning, we've been forever blessed.

This Week at Grace –Pastor Fred's message, *Times of Refreshing* is inspired by Luke 24:36-48; Acts 3:11-21. The chancel Choir will sing *Since Jesus Came Into My Heart*. Greeters this week are *Louis & Tep Reeder and Craig & Savannah Jensen*. Those serving as ushers include *Chris & Kate Feil and Leroy and Priscilla Johnson*. *Gloria Sampson* will serve as liturgist. Worship begins at 9:15 with Brunch following at 10:15. This will be our last brunch until September. On the menu – Baked French Toast. Focus this month – P.E.T. (Mobility Worldwide). Sunday school classes meet at 10:30. Please join us!

Claudia Pauk and Cathy Hermanson are looking for special music for our Sunday worship services this summer. Catch one of them at church or contact the church office if you would be willing to share your musical gifts or know of someone who would like share to their talent.

Next week is Confirmation Sunday! Chase Blagg will share the morning message as he and three classmates celebrate. Communion will be celebrated and both the Chancel and the Children's choir will sing in a combined anthem. Please plan to join us!

Music Sunday is set, as is our custom, for the first Sunday in May (the 6th). This is the Sunday when each of our choirs (Chancel. Touch of Grace Bells, Children's Bells, Children's Choir) share a couple anthems from their 2017-18 repertoire. Favorite hymn numbers are called out by the congregation at designated times during the service and a wonderful worship experience is enjoyed by all!

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend worship on May 20th. A Farewell Reception honoring Pastor Fred is planned following the service. Pastor Fred will be with us through the month of June.

Remember 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.

Next Friday is the 20th again, here's a reminder to get any articles or reports you'd like to have included in the May *Visitor* turned in by Friday, April 20th.

Does anyone know what happened to the electric pencil sharpener that has been stored in the choir room? It is missing and is needed.

Reminder: the offering envelopes in the pews are to be used by those choosing to give monetary gifts to the church privately on Sunday mornings. There is an expense associated with these special envelopes, so we'd prefer to have them used as intended. If children would like to draw and take their creations home with them, please consider using the provided clipboards with colors and a pencil available in the narthex every Sunday morning. Thank you for your consideration of our efforts to be wise stewards of our church resources.

The people of the North Central District churches will be gathering together on Sunday, May 6, at Webster City Asbury UMC for our District Conference and our Pre-Annual Conference session. At that time, we will also give thanks for the ministries of Harlan and Deb Gillespie and bless them on their way.

AGENDA:

1:15-2:00 – Light lunch served

2:00 – Dist Conference begins by recognizing the Gillespie's service

3:15-4:30 Pre-Annual Conf session.

You are invited as individuals or as churches to write Harlan and Deb a note to let them know how their time with us has impacted you. You may send your card/letter to the district office or there will be a basket available at the May 6 event.

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

LeRoy Johnson; Duane O'Tool; Denny Michel; Caleb Michel; Jackie Royer (Sharla's friend); George Mackey; Tim (Becky Barclay's brother); Julie Jacobson; Sara Dappen; Norman Patti; Pam Hillis; Lois Johnson; Cooper Leeman, Taylors in Africa

News You Can Use

Sunday, April 15

9:15 AM Worship – choir

10:15 AM 3rd Sunday Brunch – PET, Baked French Toast

10:30 AM Sunday school

Wednesday, April 18

7:00 PM Choir

8:00 PM Bells

Friday, April 20

MAY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES AND REPORTS DUE

Sunday, April 22 – Confirmation Sunday

9:15 AM Worship – choir, children's choir, Communion

10:15 AM Reception

10:30 AM Sunday school

**Faithfully,
Cathy**