



June 7, 2018

Greetings friends,

Mark's and my recent visit to Arizona reaffirmed my firm conviction that I am not a desert person. I've known it for some time. In my growing up years, my family traveled west more often than any other direction on our annual summer vacations. I always preferred the mountains and deep forests to the more desolate landscapes of the desert. When Max was in the Marines and stationed at 29 Palms, CA, I often referred to that area as the armpit of California. We visited out there twice and found absolutely nothing pretty about it. Though Max contends that some of the prettiest sunsets he's ever seen were out there. To me, it was just rocks and scrub vegetation going on for what seemed like forever. It's too bad his home base wasn't in a redwood forest or up near Big Sur or alongside Lake Tahoe. On the other

hand, we may not have gotten him to come back home if any of those gorgeous places had been his home for three years! So, whew!

In Arizona, I did find the iconic saguaro cactus intriguing, particularly this time because they were blossoming with pretty little flowers at the top. But otherwise, I'd much rather be in the Midwest. I like our more vibrant colors – especially our many and varied shades of green.

As much as I don't appreciate the desert, it seems like we timed our visit pretty well. It was 10-15 degrees cooler in Mesa than what Story City was experiencing for the two days we were down there! Not complaining about that little bit of irony at all!

I don't believe Mark and I will never be "Arizona or Texas snowbirds" in retirement. We both love the changing seasons too much – even in the crazy years like this one when we almost skipped spring with the prolonged winter and the "eager to get started" summer.

This Week at Grace – Pastor Fred is away at Annual Conference this week, so Nate Warwick is in the pulpit and leading our worship service on Sunday. Jori Witthuhn and Isabel Hoskins will share their musical gifts with us for our special music this week. *Greeters this week are Judy Miller and Bill & Susan Mardock. Those serving as ushers include the Hubert family. George Janvrin will serve as liturgist.* Worship begins at 9:15. Please join us!

Beginning THIS Sunday, June 10th, you're invited to come to church a bit early on summer Sunday mornings for *Java with Jesus* with your Grace Church family. Beginning at 8:45 on the First, second, fourth (and fifth) Sunday, plan to bring a thermal cup of your preferred morning beverage and meet in the narthex for a little fellowship before the service begins. On the third Sundays of June, July and August, the serving G.R.A.C.E. team will host Coffee Fellowship with special goodies following the morning service. Please keep these plans in mind and join us!

Opportunities for lawn mowing are available at Grace Church this summer! A sign-up sheet is on a clipboard in the narthex. The church does have a mower that you may use if you'd rather not haul yours over.

Loaves and Fishes/Story City Market Matching Program

Loaves and Fishes and Story City Market have begun a matching program. When a case of advertised Best Choice brand product is purchased for Loaves and Fishes, Story City Market will match this donation with another case. Sales must be completed through store management. All case donations will be delivered to the pantry. With questions call Judy Miller at 515.520.1593 or Sue Bohner at 515.290.5905.

The July-August Upper Room devotional magazine has arrived and is available for pick up in the narthex.

REMINDER - Any articles or reports you'd like to have included in the July newsletter need to be submitted to the church office by June 20th, please.

Looking ahead – Please note the attached invitation to the Retirement Reception in honor of Bethany Life Chaplain Sandy Anenson.

Bethany Life is holding their Annual Golf Classic on Friday, June 22nd. This is a two person best ball tournament, that includes 18 holes of golf, golf cart, a hotdog lunch, grilled dinner by Chef Chris Hansen and all sorts of fun games and door prizes. This year's event is being held at the Ames Golf & Country Club. \$100 per person. Call Lynne Melssen at 515-733-3040 or email her at: lynne@bethanylife.org Come support Bethany Life and enjoy a great day on the links!

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:
Denny Michel; Caleb Michel; Lois Johnson; Duane O'Tool; Jackie Royer (Sharla's friend); Norman Patti; Pam Hillis; Cooper Leeman, Taylors in Africa

News You Can Use

Sunday, June 10

8:00 AM Trustees

8:45 AM "Java with Jesus" – Fellowship time in Narthex – BYOB to enjoy as you "sip & chat"

9:15 AM Worship – Nate Warwick in pulpit, Isabel Hoskins and Jori Witthuhn, special music

Monday, June 11

5:30 PM SPRC

7:00 PM Worship

Sunday, June 17 – Father's Day

9:15 Worship

10:15 Coffee Fellowship – Team E serves Donuts for Dad!

**Faithfully,
Cathy**