



May 3, 2018

Greetings friends,

What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding. The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming...

My favorite season of the year is fall, but spring sure has a lot going for it. I love getting all of my flowers planted and perhaps a few vegetables, as well. I love opening the doors and windows and letting the sweet, fresh springtime air and gentle breezes into our home. I love getting out the flip-flops and putting away winter coats and snow boots. I love hearing the laughter and shouts of neighborhood children as they enjoy the warmer, sunshine-filled days. I even love rainy spring days because when the rain is over, suddenly trees are budding out and everything begins to “green up”. I love seeing the farmers out in their big tractors tilling the soil and planting seeds. Ah yes, I do love spring, too.



This Week at Grace – Hooray for MUSIC SUNDAY this Sunday! The choirs look forward to this special day all year and have wonderful songs to reprise for you! Pastor Fred is on vacation May 3-10. Greeters this week are Caleb Michel & Lorijo Lounsberry. Those serving as ushers include Denny & Gini Michel and Jim & Alyce Wirth. Kurt Carlson will serve as liturgist. Worship begins at 9:15 and **You are invited to Fellowship Hall following our service** today to have a donut provided by Sharla and Caitlin Mander in honor of Caitlin’s graduation from DMACC. “Thank you for all the support you’ve shown us!” Sunday school classes meet at 10:30. Please join us!

We are looking forward to hearing all of our choirs on Sunday and singing everyone’s favorite hymns. Many thanks to Kurt Carlson for agreeing to lead us through the service and to our choir directors extraordinaire – Rhonda Hampton, Judy Brekke and Erma Schaeffer for all of their efforts to choose wonderful music and to lead our choirs as they learn and then perform it. We are blessed by their faithful and joyful leadership!

Pastor Fred is on vacation from May 4-11th.

Next Sunday, May 14th, is Mother’s Day! You’re invited to come join us as we celebrate Mom during our Worship hour! Following the service and in honor of Mother’s Day, some of our Grace women will be offering a freshly-baked homemade cinnamon roll to enjoy with your coffee – as always, a free-will donation is appreciated. If you enjoy your treat so much you’d like to take some home, they will have rolls in To-Go packages of 2 or 6 that you may purchase! This is a fund-raiser for our Thanksgiving Ingathering school bag project.

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.

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 inspiring, faith-based **Paul, Apostle of Christ** will be presented Friday, Saturday, Sunday, May 4, 5, 6, at the Story Theater in Story City IA. Show times are evenings at 7 p.m., with special matinees Saturday and Sunday at 4:30 p.m. Admission is only \$4 and it's rated PG-13. For more information call [515/733-4551](tel:5157334551) or [515/733-4319](tel:5157334319).

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

The people of the North Central District churches will be gathering together THIS 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.

News You Can Use

Sunday, May 6 MUSIC SUNDAY

9:15 AM Worship

10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship – Donut Reception Honoring Caitlin Mander

10:30 AM Sunday school

1:15-4:30 PM NC District Conference

Monday, May 7

6:00 PM Trustees empty out office rooms

Wednesday, May 9

1:30 AM UMW

Sunday, May 13

8:00 AM Trustees meet

9:15 AM Worship – Mother's Day

10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship – Cinnamon Roll Treat and sale!

10:30 AM Sunday school

**Faithfully,
Cathy**