



August 2, 2018

Greetings friends,

This week I've been thinking about the really good people each of us meets along life's path. Some we walk alongside for a short season, some for years and years and some we get to hang around with for life. And, in each of these associations, the blessings flow.

My LYLAS (Paula, Suzi, Julie, Deb and Christine) group fits into the "years and years" category. We came together with my quest to find playmates for toddler Max. At that time I had five acquaintances who had children of similar age that I wanted to get to know better. Since our first family picnic in the summer of 1989 and a couple's progressive supper in December of that year, we've been a "thing".

Every year since 1989 we've held a progressive supper around the holiday season (give or take a month or two). We've worked together, played together and celebrated the arrival of babies, grandbabies and birthday celebrations together. We've helped out at the high school graduation parties of one another's kids (just 1 left!) and have hosted unique bridal showers for each of our kids as they prepared for marriage (just 4 left!). We've been there for one another as parents have passed away. For years, our families Christmas caroled together. We've shared life and, along with our husbands, have become almost like family to one another. Through the years we've often discussed what to call our little group. More often than not, we just referred to ourselves as "The Group". It certainly isn't a very imaginative name, but accurate, I suppose.

Four years ago, when our Max married Kristin, she introduced me to her college roommates who were also her bridesmaids. She referred to them as her LYLAS. Huh? Kristin told me it stands for Love You Like A Sister. Aha! I loved that and soon began referring to my own circle of special friends as my LYLAS.

On Sunday morning this week, the LYLAS are excited to share special music for our Grace Church worship service. We'd welcome the encouragement of your presence as we worship together.

Have a blessed week!

**This Week at Grace** – Pastor Jonathan's message this week, "The True Bread from Heaven" is inspired by John 6:25-35. *The LYLAS will be here to share their musical gifts and Beckey will serve as liturgist! Greeters this week are Alex & Amy Franco. Those serving as ushers include Mike & Patsy Jensen and Dale & Lynn Henricks.* Worship begins at 9:15 and we will celebrate Communion. *Java with Jesus* (a time of fellowship – BYOB) begins at 8:45 in the narthex. Please join us!

**Pastor Jonathan invites folks to come meet him and have a get-to-know-you chat in his office or he is willing to go out and meet folks in their homes. Please contact him to set up a time!**

**Email: [Jonathan.cooney07@gmail.com](mailto:Jonathan.cooney07@gmail.com)**

**Phone: (816) 616-0466**

**As we prepare for the last steps in our office transformation** over the next couple weeks we will be placing give-away items on the tables in Fellowship Hall. Please help yourself.

**LOST AND FOUND** – We have three gift cards that found outside and turned into Pastor Jonathan last Sunday. If you dropped them, please claim in the church office.

**The Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry** is always in need of paper products including: Toilet paper, diapers, baby wipes, personal hygiene products, Kleenex, paper towels. Please consider picking up some of these simple items and placing them in the shopping cart located in the narthex area. Grace Church volunteers at the Pantry this Saturday. Thanks to all who volunteered to help!

**As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:**  
Family of Donna Richardson-Norcross; Karen (Mrs. Kent) Keech; Julie Jacobson; George Sellers; Denny Michel; Lois Johnson; Jean Reeder; Duane O'Tool; Jackie Royer (Sharla's friend); Cooper Leeman, Taylor family in Africa

## News You Can Use

### **Sunday, August 5**

8:45 AM Java with Jesus

9:15 AM Worship

### **Monday, August 6**

6:30 PM Education

### **Tuesday, August 7**

OFFICE CLOSED

### **Wednesday, August 8**

10:30 AM Visitation for Donna Norcross

11:30 AM Memorial service for Donna Norcross

### **Thursday, August 9**

7:00 PM SPRC Ministry Expectations Workshop in Webster City

### **Sunday, August 12**

8:45 AM Java with Jesus

9:15 AM Worship

Please "like" our Facebook page, [@storycitygrace](#) and receive regular updates on "what's happening" at Grace Church!

Our website, [www.grace-umc.com](http://www.grace-umc.com) is full of information and pictures about the life and activities of our Grace Church family. Please check us out!

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

**Our Welcome to Grace Reception for Pastor Jonathan is set for August 19<sup>th</sup> immediately following the worship service.**

**Chancel Choir and Bell Choir rehearsals** begin on Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m. and 8:00p.m. respectively.

**Our Children's Bells** practices will begin in early September.

**Rally Sunday is set for September 9<sup>th</sup>.** Sunday school will meet at 10:15.

**Our Charge Conference this year is set for September 30<sup>th</sup>** at First UMC in Ames.

**Faithfully,  
Cathy**