



July 12, 2018

Greetings friends,

Whenever two-year-old Cora encounters something new, she grabs on to it, examines it thoroughly from every angle and inevitably exclaims, “Wow!” When she meets someone new or even sees someone she hasn’t for a while, her ever-present greeting is a very cheerful, “Hi!”

When you are two, everything is wow-worthy and everyone is a friend. Nothing is taken just as a matter of course. Life is exciting and adventure waits around every corner.

As Grandma, I have the privilege of experiencing the simple of joys of life once again, vicariously through Cora, just as I did with her daddy, once upon a time. And as I do, I find myself thinking what a shame it is that I forget just how utterly exciting life is in the between years of sharing intimate time in the company of a toddler.

This past year has re-opened my eyes to simple joys like Grandpa arriving back home after work or the fascination of pouring water through a funnel or sand through a sieve. I’ve come to re-appreciate the capriciousness of soap bubbles floating high up into the sky and the intrigue of a butterfly flitting from flower to flower in search of nectar. Cora’s ecstatic “whee” exclamation as she sails high on her swing makes me smile as I remember the exhilaration of feeling free of earth’s gravity in such a moment. And I’ve been reminded what a feast of a treat three m&m candies are as a reward for accomplishing a task.

With the inspiration of Cora’s delight in discovering the world, I’m purposing to pay more attention to oft-overlooked everyday wonders. My “wow” encounters may not be as frequent as hers, but even one or two of them a day helps me remember how precious and fun life is. And perhaps, remembering what receiving a heartfelt, cheery hello does to my day will prompt me to bestow a similar bit of joy as I greet others.

I invite you to consider the awe-filled perspective of a toddler as you encounter the world today. Appreciate the precious gifts in life and spread a little sunshine where you can.

**This Week at Grace** – Pastor Jonathan’s message this week, “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?: Adopted as His Children” is inspired by Ephesians 1:3-14. *Tanner Blue will be back to share his talent for instrumental music and our liturgist this week is Eric Dowe. Greeters this week are Cindy Spurlock and Cathy & Cora Hermanson. Those serving as ushers include Rod & Sue Bohner and Tim & Kim Tryon.* Worship begins at 9:15, and you’re invited to come on down to Fellowship Hall following the worship service. Team C will have coffee and homemade sweets to help encourage conversation and fellowship. Please join us!

**TO THOSE WHO SERVE AS USHERS** – Pastor Jonathan would like you to carry the offering plates all the way up to the altar and to place them there. He will meet you at the altar to lead us in prayer before you head back to the narthex. Just a reminder that the ushers are responsible for putting attendance numbers up on the board located above the south end steps and for collecting all the attendance sheets for day and delivering them to the office. Also, remember in the summer months, ushers need to light the altar candles before the service and to extinguish them following. Thank you!

**THIS SUNDAY** - Please note the attached invitation to the Retirement Reception in honor of Bethany Life Chaplain Sandy Anenson.

**LIFELIGHT**, a new evangelism and outreach festival, will be *held in the South Park here in Story City on Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-10:00 PM*. There will be messages from speakers Josh Brewer and Alan Greene, as well as some local pastors. Come listen to the uplifting music of Hollyn, Bread of Stone, Rachele Hope, Bobby Bugatti, Cade Thompson and others. Take this opportunity to hear testimonies that speak to your heart, offer hope and ignite your faith. We hope you'll join us as we further the impact of the Kingdom in Story City!

**Any articles, reports, pictures** you'd like to have included in the August *Grace Visitor* newsletter are due in the office by Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, please.

**Our Charge Conference this year is set for September 30<sup>th</sup>** in Ames. Committees please be advised that Finance will need your proposed budgets by the end of July. Committee Reports are due in the office by September 15 so that our packets can be assembled for the Charge Conference. Forms for these reports will be given to committee chairs as they become available.

**Roland-Story School Supplies class lists** are in the narthex – please pick up one or two to fill and have back at the church by July 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for helping our local kids get off to a good and happy start to their school year!

**FACE TIME WITH OUR NEW PASTOR! No, we're not talking about the Facebook app. 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. Sign-up sheets with available times will located on a clip board in the Narthex area beginning this Sunday.**

**Pastor Jonathan's contact information:**

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

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

**As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:**  
Family of Randy Witthuhn; Karen (Mrs. Kent) Keech; Julie Jacobson; Marlene Doolittle; Denny Michel; Caleb Michel; Carolyn Bostwick; Lois Johnson; Jean Reeder; Duane O'Tool; Jackie Royer (Sharla's friend); Norman Patti; Cooper Leeman, Taylor family

## **News You Can Use**

### **Saturday, July 14**

1:00-10:00 PM LifeLight Festival in South Park

3:00-5:00 PM Gathering of Friends of Randy Witthuhn in Fellowship Hall

### **Sunday, July 15**

9:15 AM Worship

10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship – join us in Fellowship Hall for homemade treats & conversation!

### **Sunday, July 22**

8:45 AM Java with Jesus (Bring Your Own Breakfast Beverage and join us for fellowship in the narthex)

9:15 AM Worship

10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship

**Faithfully,  
Cathy**