



November 21, 2018

Greetings friends,

Mark and I are just returning from Florida where we spent some time with our niece and her family. Our one-year old grand-niece was in need of our attention for a couple days! It was another of our road trips that involved the 2-2-2 plan (two days of travel, two days of visiting and playing, and then two more days traveling home). It's a pretty good formula for us. We find the days in the car to be restful and interesting. We enjoy observing the changing landscapes and generally just seeing what's what.

Family time is always happy time for us. Who wouldn't have fun playing with a happy, inquisitive, increasingly independent toddler? Trixie has been missing her Cora, but Avery was an interesting substitute for her affections for a couple days. In an interesting turn of events, we decided to take the long way 'round and stop at Cora's house on the way home. She insisted on coming to "Papa's house", so we hit the jackpot on special time with precious little girls this week! We'll meet up with her parents and many other Clayberg family folk for our Thanksgiving gathering on Thursday.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours! May your travels be without troubles and your holiday meal delicious and shared in the company of people you love.

This Week at Grace – Pastor Jonathan's message this week, "American Idol" is inspired by John 18:33-37. Jarod Hart will provide special music and *Terry Gustason will serve as liturgist. Greeters this week are Shirley Frandson and Cathy Hermanson. Those serving as ushers include Jim & Shelley Hassebrock, Doug Doolittle and George Janvrin.* Worship begins at 9:15 and we'll gather to decorate the church for Christmas during Coffee Fellowship time this week. Sunday school meets at 10:30 - please join us!

Pledge Cards for 2019 – If you haven't yet turned in your Pledge Card, don't despair! We will be happy to receive them for the next few weeks. Thank you for being generous in your giving plan for 2019.

Meals on Wheels – Nov. 26 Schaeffer; Nov. 27 Schaeffer; Nov 28 Sampson; Nov. 29 Loupee; Nov. 30 Loupee. Thank you all for your service!

FYI - Bethany Life will be offering a support group opportunity for caregivers of those suffering with dementia or Alzheimer's. The group begins meeting on November 27th from 4-5:30 pm in the Bethany Manor Chapel.

We're looking for volunteers to serve as a liturgist during worship services in 2019. If this is something you'd like to try, please make a note in the attendance pad or stop by the office or call to let us know. Cathy provides a copy of the bulletin and a list of the announcements a few days early each week so you can read through it ahead of time. She will also coach you through your first time, if you'd like, Depending on how many want to take advantage of this opportunity, we'll ask you to take a turn every one to three months. This is just another, fairly simple way to get involved at Grace Church; we hope lots of folks will give it a try!

The Story City Kiwanis have place a decorated box in the narthex and invite you to help fill it with hats, scarves, mittens and gloves for Roland-Story Elementary and Middle School children in need. The box will be here until December 6th.

Sunday, December 2nd you're invited to stop in at the parsonage to have a look around now that Jonathan is settled in. Enjoy your coffee and snack in Fellowship Hall and then pop over for a "look-see" next door!

Living Faithfully: The United Methodist Church and Human Sexuality is a little book that, in just four short chapters—leads us through a discussion of the issues at the core of our church's current struggle. What is the conflict about? What do people on either "side" have to say? In February a special general conference will receive—and perhaps act on—a report from *The Commission on A Way Forward*. This commission was tasked with finding a way for the United Methodist Church to continue its ministry while our people remained in connection with one another. I feel it is my responsibility to lead the congregation into some kind of understanding of the issues involved. We will be discussing this book in the adult Sunday school class beginning January 13. I would also like to make another time available: perhaps Sunday evenings, Tuesday evenings, or Wednesday before choir practice. Please indicate your preference on the attendance pad. The office is purchasing a number of books to get us started.

Many of us may not know what this is all about. Some of us may already have strong opinions (and this discussion is not meant to change anyone's mind). Quite a few of us have been affected either within our families or extended circle of friends. Let's take some time to talk. --Jonathan

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:
Sara Dappen; Velda Frette; Pat Skowronski; Sally Donald (Judy A's sister); Joan Cooney; Lois Johnson; Garry Gerjets; Clarence (friend of George Sellers); Carly Hilson & Rob Brunerelli (friends of Donyel); Jackie Royer (Sharla's friend); Cooper Leeman; Taylor family in Africa

News You Can Use

Thursday, November 22

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Friday, November 23

OFFICE CLOSED

4:00 – 7:00 PM Visitation for Denny Michel family

Saturday, November 24

10:30 AM Memorial Service – Denny Michel

Sunday, November 25 – Christ the King Sunday

9:15 AM Worship

10:15 AM Church decorating

10:30 AM Sunday school

Monday, November 26

5:30 PM Finance

6:30 PM Council

Wednesday, November 28

5:00 PM Kid's Bells

7:00 PM Choir

8:00 PM Bells

Sunday, December 2 – First Sunday of Advent

9:15 AM Worship – choir

10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship – Parsonage Open House tour

10:30 AM Sunday school Christmas program practice

Please “like” our Facebook page, [@storycitygrace](#) and receive regular updates on “what’s happening” at Grace Church! Our website, www.grace-umc.com is full of information and pictures about the life and activities of our Grace Church family. Please check it out!

Faithfully, Cathy