



The Grace Church Visitor

Grace United Methodist Church
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Office Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Retiring the old and blessing the new: Steeples at Grace!

Pictures shared by Cathy Hermanson



The Visitor is a monthly publication of
Grace UMC, Story City.

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Grace = God's Riches At Christ's Expense

October Birthdays



Jason Hofsommer	10-2
LeRoy Johnson	10-3
Sara Dappen	10-3
Kenny Miskell	10-5
Lena Feil	10-6
Denny Michel	10-9
Gene Schaeffer	10-10
Shirley Frandson	10-11
Kevin Holm	10-11
Riker Warwick	10-12
Chuck Semler	10-13
Cheryl Semler	10-13
Mark Barrett	10-16
Jori Witthuhn	10-20
Susan Mardock	10-21
Zach Tryon	10-22
Carroll Brekke	10-24
Max Hermanson	10-26
Addison Witthuhn	10-26
Norm Spurlock	10-27
Ross Barclay	10-29
Kevin Larson	10-31

If we're missing a birthday please accept our apologies and let us know so we can update our records!

October Lectionary

October 7

Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 25 or 26;
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

October 14

Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15;
Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

October 21

Job 38:1-7; Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c;
Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

October 28

Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22);
Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

Deadline for submitting Visitor information is the 20th of each month. Information for the weekly bulletin and *This Week at Grace* is due in the office by noon on Wednesdays.



From Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

The United Methodist Church was created in 1968 through the union of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church. Since 1972 our general conference has wrestled with the issue of homosexuality and the church, declaring (in the *Book of Discipline*) that homosexuals are people of sacred worth, but the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. As the debate intensified, ordination of homosexuals was prohibited as was clergy participation in same-gender unions. This is a simplistic description of the controversy that has gained the attention of the church to the exclusion of most everything else during the entire course of my ministry and nearly the entire history of our denomination.



During the 2016 general conference, the bishops appointed The Commission on A Way Forward to discuss and propose ways in which the United Methodist Church could still be the church in the midst of the debate surrounding these issues. A special called general conference will meet in February, 2019, to receive and act on the commission's report and the bishops' recommendations. One proposal, the "connectional conference plan", would reorganize the church in the United States with conferences aligned according to theology over LGBTQ issues. Another, the "traditional plan", would keep the current wording of the *Discipline* and tighten enforcement, with a plan for churches that want to separate. The "one church plan" (favored by the majority of the bishops, I believe) allows for decisions over LGBTQ ordination and same-gender unions to be made more locally.

Let us not kid ourselves. The questions are not as simple as they seem. Few families and churches have not been touched by the issue of sexual orientation. It's not so easy to be dogmatic when the conversation is about your friend's daughter or the boy who grew up in your church. And we have changed our attitudes toward *some* issues over time—even things the Bible takes for granted, like slavery, war, autocratic government, and the role of women in society.

I hope we can trust each other to talk about these things in the near future. Trust *me* when I say I have no agenda except understanding. Iowa Bishop Laurie Haller and members of our general conference delegation are visiting the districts for a time of *Praying A Way Forward*. They will lead us in worship, answer questions, and facilitate dialogue. I hope you will consider attending the North Central District meeting Saturday, October 27, from 10-11:30 A.M. at Asbury United Methodist Church in Webster City. Please refer to the conference site or the United Methodist News Service for more information.

Your Servant for Christ's Sake,
Jonathan

G.R.A.C.E. Team E

Gene & Erma Schaeffer, chair

Tony & Christine Blue, Eric Dowe, Carroll & Judy Brekke, Darren & Dawn Diehl, Sam Diehl, Leah & Alan Frandson, Velda Frette, Jason & Jennifer Haglund, Zane Haglund, Bill & Suzy Hess, Jeremy Hess, Jason & Marcia Hofsommer, Adam & Valerie Hubert, Julie & Kaitlyn Jacobson, Sue Jacobson, Karen Keech, Brent & Amy Lester, Alyssa Loots, Sharla Mander, Bill & Susan Mardock, Dave & Linda McVicker, Ashley Miller, Judy Miller, Bob & Loretta Parker, Arris Richardson, Brian & Janet Richardson, Scott Richardson, Nate & Malinda Warwick, Ray & Jolene Wolf

Weddings

Congratulations and God's blessing on these two young couples on their recent marriages!

 On Friday, August 31st, Annie Larson and Kevin Doyle married at Prairie Moon Winery outside of Gilbert. Pastor Fred Darbonne officiated.

 On Saturday, September 1st, Elizabeth Welke and Brad Staten were joined in marriage at Grace Church. Pastor Jonathan Cooney officiated.

Birth

 Congratulations to Natalie and Torran Rasmussen on the arrival of their son, *Lincoln Paul Rasmussen* on September 15, 2018. Congratulations also, to Jim and Shelley Hassebrock on the special blessing of another grandbaby!

The **law** of the **LORD** is *perfect*,
converting the soul: the
testimony of the **LORD** is **SURE**,
making **WISE** the simple.
Psalm 19:7

God 
makes everything
beautiful
in its time. -Ecclesiastes 3:11
Happy Fall! photglitters.net

October Volunteers

Sunday, October 7 - Choir

Liturgist – Eric Dowe

Greeters – Loretta Parker, Leah Frandson

Ushers – Sharla Mander, Gene & Erma Schaeffer,
Judy Brekke



Sunday, October 14 - Bells

Liturgist – George Janvrin

Greeters – Hubert family

Ushers – Christine Semler-Blue, Eric Dowe
Adam, Val and Owen Hubert

Sunday, October 21 - Choir

Liturgist – Terry Gustason

Greeters – Loretta Parker, Suzy Hess

Ushers – Alyssa Loots, Erma Schaeffer
Tanner Blue, Connor Blue



Brunch help –

Clean up – Judy Brekke, Alyssa Loots

1 gal OJ – Linda McVicker, Erma Schaeffer

1 milk – Linda McVicker

Sunday, October 28 - Children's Bells

Liturgist – Gloria Sampson

Greeters – Gene Schaffer, Warwick family

Ushers – Warwick family

Bulletin and Newsletter folders – Velda Frette, Erma Schaeffer, Bill & Susan Mardock



Thank You!



Thanks to Marilyn and Dan Webster for creating and hanging new drapes in the master bedroom of the parsonage.



Our Prayers

Denny Michel; Velda Frette; George Sellers; Sally Donald (Judy A's sister); Joan Cooney; Karen (Mrs. Kent) Keech; Julie Jacobson; Lois Johnson; Jackie Royer (Sharla's friend); Cooper Leeman; Taylor family in Africa

Our Presence

Attendance Sept 2 – Sept 23:
Worship: 387 Total – 97 avg

Our Gifts

Offering – Sept 2 – Sept 23:
\$9,643.00

Our Service

 Thank you to the chairs of our various committees who compiled and turned in reports for our Charge Conference before deadline!

A correction to our list of folks who helped with the office remodeling project: Kevin Larson was mis-identified. We thank him for his service and extend apologies for the error!

 Thank you to our choir directors, Rhonda, Judy and Erma for getting us off to a successful beginning on our new "season"!

 Thank you to our September lawn mowing crew including: Rod Bohner, David Doolittle, Mike Jensen

Our Witness

 We appreciate our September Liturgists: George Janvrin, David Loupee, Terry Gustason, Kurt Carlson, Beckey Witthuhn

 Thank you to Eric Dowe and his RS high school men's group, *Thor's Men*, for sharing special music at our September 23rd worship service. \$1,000 was given toward the RS Chorus's 2019 spring break trip to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

UMW News



Women's Fellowship

The United Methodist Women of Grace United Methodist Church met Wednesday, September 12 at 1:30 PM with nine members present. Tep Reeder and Judy Miller joined us later as they were shopping for school kit supplies for the November In-Gathering. Vice-President Claudia filled in for President Gloria. She read the September scripture Proverbs 3: 9-10 and opened the meeting with a meaningful prayer reminding us of 9/11 seventeen years ago. Members recited the Pledge. We talked of those who are in need of special prayers at this time. Velda is at downtown Mercy recovering from a fall, Pat Skronowski, Gini and Denny Michel and Marilyn Webster's sister.

Erma opened her Mission Moment with John 6: verse 35. She reminded us of those who help with Christian Ed and how fortunate we are at Grace Church to have some very talented teachers and helpers. She ask us to share a memory of our days in Bible or Sunday School.

Minutes of July 11th meeting were read and approved. The Treasurers report was also read and approved. On hand is a balance of \$3,731.04.

It was noted that at our May meeting we voted to reimburse Judy Miller \$50 for supplies for cinnamon rolls. Judy has refused this amount. The cinnamon roll sale brought in \$567 which will be used for school supplies for the school kits.

Claudia shared an invitation to a salad supper at Radcliffe Savior Lutheran Church, 6:30 on Thursday, September 13. No RSVP necessary.

Marilyn told us she is making new drapes for the upstairs parsonage bedroom. She had made the drapes there now 28 years ago. She thought curtain rods were the original ones and they were being replaced along with a ceiling fan being added.

Old Business: Discussion of school kits for November In-gathering. Kits are now put in 2 gallon zip-loc bags and description and items for bags can be found on-line. We will assemble at October meeting. \$2 shipping will be needed for each bag. Original hope had been to have 100 bags. The October Church Brunch money will go to In-Gathering which is November 3 in Webster City. Pastor Cooney is planning on going.

New Business: Nomination committee Erma and Raejean reported that all officers and committees have committed to serve another year. A list will be presented in October and Instillation will be in November.

A discussion and review was held on honorary members. Adjustments will be made in next year's program book.

Raejean along with her friends Prayful Pam, Happy Hannah, Loveable Lucy, Absent Minded Abby, Wendy Wise and Fanny Farmer gave a very thoughtful program on "thumbprints on my heart".

Sue Bohner, even though not feeling well, sent the dessert.

Next month's meeting will be Wednesday, October 10 with Marilyn Webster: Mission Moment; Program: Gloria Sampson and Hostess: Shirley Frandson

Submitted by Terry Gustason

2018 Charge Conference

 Our annual Charge Conference is set for Ames First UMC on Sunday afternoon, Sunday, September 30th. New D.S. Carol Kress will lead the worship service (complete with Communion) and the Conference meeting for representatives for the churches of the southern tier of the North Central District. Our annual report booklet will be submitted – thank you to all those who contributed reports. Copies of the report will be available upon request for those not attending the conference.

Crop Walk for Hunger



The Ames Area CROP Walk for Hunger is on Sunday, October 14, beginning at 1:30 p.m. It will begin at Brookside Park and is an easy walk of just over 3 miles. The goal is to help people struggling to feed their families both around the world and here locally. The Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry will be one of the local organizations receiving a portion of the funds raised. If anyone would wish to go on the walk or to form a team to walk, please contact Sharla Mander.

You may sign up to walk and/or donate by visiting the walk website: www.crophungerwalk.org/amesia

Thank you for your support.

3rd Sunday Brunch



Fellowship Meal

Our September Sunday Brunch was enjoyed by a crowd of 64 people. Sharla Mander, Cheryl Semler, Gini Michel, and G.R.A.C.E. Team G members hosted this month. Just over \$223.40 was raised for the Crop Hunger Walk! Please join us October 21st when Sharla's team and members of Team E will serve baked French toast and proceeds will go to the Thanksgiving Ingathering.

All Saints Sunday Service



On Sunday, November 4th we will be celebrating our saints with a candle-lighting ceremony, where we will name and honor the members who have died since last All Saints' Day. Family members will be invited to take part in this service of remembrance. We are remembering: Alfred (Al) Rau, Patricia Wilson, Dorothy Appelgate, Randy Witthuhn, Donna Norcross.

For Your Information



When there is a weather-related early out at Roland-Story schools, all church activities for that day will also be cancelled. Worship services will NOT be cancelled in the case of inclement weather. You are urged to use your own good judgment as to whether or not you are able to attend the service when the weather is nasty, but there will be a service.

Bible Study with Brian



Brian McNamara is leading a new study group. This is not going to be your traditional study of the Bible. It's going to be "edgy" and truth revealing as the group starts on page 1 of the Bible and works their way through. Brian would like to have the group meet at his home (305 Sunrise, Story City) on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm, starting on September 27th. Bring your Bibles. Please phone Brian (515-290-6330) so he knows how many will be attending. Non Grace Church members have been invited, too. Not handicapped accessible.

Meal on Wheels

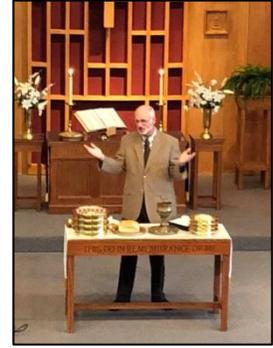


Grace Church is again responsible for delivering Meals on Wheels in Story City during the month of November. We are asking if you can please volunteer your time to help deliver these meals to those in our community who need them. The month of October is the time to sign up for the route and day you choose to help. Please be generous with your time to help us. As in the past, there will be no meals delivered on Thanksgiving or the Friday after. A sign-up sheet will be located on the table in the Narthex. As you sign up for your volunteer days, don't forget to pick up a "Volunteer Tips and Reminders" sheet also. This sheet should answer any questions you might have. If you still have questions, ask or call Claudia Pauk.



September Pictures of Grace

Pictures shared by Loretta Parker, Sharla Mander and Cathy Hermanson



On September 7th and 8th seven Grace families with campers parked their rigs up at Little Wall Lake outside of Jewell for the first of what several hope will become an annual Grace Church camping event. The families relaxed for the two days, enjoying lake activities, walks, shared meals and lots of conversation. In the evenings several other folks from the congregation visited the campsite to enjoy the community campfire and the stories and laughter that go along with fellowship with good friends.



Grace United Methodist Church Council

Unofficial Minutes September 24, 2018 meeting

Present: Loretta Parker (Chair), Becky Barclay (Finance), Pastor Jonathan, David Barclay (Trustees), Terry Gustason (Treasurer/CDT), Cheryl Semler (Worship), Cathy Hermanson (Communications/rec. secretary)

Loretta offered a prayer and opened the meeting.

Cheryl/Becky moved the August minutes be accepted. Motion passed.

Finance: Becky reported we are behind in our weekly giving in September. We will meet payroll, but won't be able to meet our apportionment target in September. We are not in debt, but are over budget at this point. Becky will speak at worship on October 7th. Terry/Cheryl moved that the report be allowed. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Jonathan shared his adventures of the past month and highlighted some things coming up. Pastoral meeting with our DS went well. Welke wedding was fun and went well. Jonathan attended the Charge Conference orientation session with Cathy, attended the welcome service for our DS Carol Kress, attended RS Ministerial Association meeting, met with Conference counseling to discuss "A Day Apart" ("bonus years" after empty nest that folks enjoy in this generation) and the need to reach out to the un-churched/under churched in that particular group. The Hunger Fight is coming up on Sept 29, we will have a baptism (Barric McCann) on October 14th, RS Ministerial will meet with RS Administration on Oct. 11. Jonathan suggested we consider becoming members of the Chamber of Commerce (\$175 annually) to help us become more visible in the community. He plans to take vacation October 17-22 and is working to find pulpit supply for Sunday, Oct. 21. Jonathan's October *Visitor* column introduces the UM Church Commission on *A Way Forward* (the issue of homosexuality and the church). In January, he is considering offering a discussion-study series using the book *Living Faithfully* which explores the UMC and homosexuality issue, looking at it from both sides. Jonathan informed us of the upcoming October 27th *Praying a Way Forward* opportunity at Asbury UMC in Webster City. The Bishop and members of our General Conference delegation will hold a District meeting to answer questions and talk about the special General Conference coming up in February to address the church/homosexuality issue.

Committee Reports: Ministry Areas

Worship: Cheryl reported 125 attended Rally Sunday this year. The high school Sunday school class has 7 students who all seem to appreciate the Huberts' leadership. A community joint Thanksgiving service will be held at Immanuel Lutheran on Wednesday evening, November 21st. All Saints Sunday is November 4th. Noted the recent bulletin change breaking down our worship service into 3 parts: *Opening Hearts* – preparing ourselves for worship. *Opening Minds* – hearing and responding to the Word. *Opening Doors* – our response to the Word and ministry (taking it out into the world).

Christian Education: Sunday school seems to be going well – great enthusiasm from some new adult volunteer assistants!

UMW: Terry reported Raejean Bicklehaupt shared a delightful thumbprint program at their September meeting. Supplies have been purchased and school kits for the Thanksgiving Ingathering will be assembled at their October meeting. The officers who are serving in 2018 have agreed to also serve in 2019.

Committee Reports: Administrative Area

Leadership Development (Nominations): Jonathan shared that Terry will be our Lay Leader and delegate to Annual Conference in 2019..

Trustees/Memorial Committee: Dave outlined the various projects the Trustees are working on over the next few months – steeple replacement and several smaller electrical projects at the parsonage. Plans for parsonage improvements are beginning and Dave told us the basement windows at the parsonage need to be replaced.

Communications: Cathy reported the changeover to the business Facebook page has been completed. Sharla Mander and Cathy are working hard to keep the page up with at least 1 or 2 new entries each week. Some posts are "boosted" for a dollar a day to reach beyond just those who have "liked" our page. Cathy recently had a lesson from Caitlin to be able to help with a few more things on our website on a regular basis. Lessons will continue. Next Communications meeting is set for October 1.

New Business:

Pastor Jonathan was complimented on the Steeple Decommissioning/Blessing service – "it was exactly right."

Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting: Monday, Monday, October 22nd at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hermanson
Recording Secretary





CAPITAL GAINS TAX BYPASSED – CASE STUDY



Peter and Gail were nearing retirement. Over the years, with the help of their financial advisor, they made solid investments in securities and built a sizable portfolio. While their investments increased substantially in value, their potential capital gains tax bill was rising. Now with retirement on the horizon, they were looking for a way to sell their highly appreciated stock, generate income for their future and avoid paying high capital gains tax.

Peter: For many years we had supported the work of our favorite charity. Through an e-mail we learned that we could make a gift of our appreciated stock to charity and bypass the potential capital gains tax cost we were facing. I was thrilled to learn that after transferring our portfolio to a charitable remainder trust, the trust would sell the stock tax free.

Gail: I liked the fact that the trust would provide us with income for our retirement years. If something happened to Peter, I would still be taken care of for the remainder of my life.

Peter and Gail decided to make a gift of their appreciated stock to establish a charitable remainder unitrust. They were thrilled at the prospect of creating future income while bypassing capital gains tax.

Peter: When I heard that in addition to the other benefits we would receive a charitable deduction for our gift, it was just icing on the cake! I wondered why everyone nearing retirement doesn't set up a charitable trust.

Grace's Endowment Committee encourages you to consider the various ways your giving can help to **Endow Grace**, preserving the future of our Church.

Please contact the church office at 515-733-4712 or office@grace-umc.com or visit our website at <http://www.grace-umc.com/endowgrace.aspx>



