



September 27, 2018

Greetings friends,

Whew! It has been a busy week in the office with getting the monthly newsletter out AND finishing and printing the Charge Conference packets. As always, I am so thankful to all who turn in information for the *Visitor*. And, as mentioned last week, the help with compiling the CC packet has been especially good this year. Thank you, again!

As you may have heard, I also began a new decade of life on the planet at the end of last week. I wasn't really too bummed about this "zero" year for a couple reasons. The first reason is that age is just a number. I'm not really a fan of math, but I do like numbers because I enjoy saying things like "I remember back in 'aught 3" and "I've been a member of this or that for 'nigh onto 38 years!"

I get a kick out of "old-timer" talk. I like occasionally using classic terms like "whippersnapper", or "hooligans" or a personal favorite that just continues to improve with time: "groovy"! Nothing brings an eye roll faster to my son's face than that 60s era charmer.

The second reason is that, as a two-time cancer survivor, every year is a victory of sorts, particularly if it passed cancer-free. There's nothing like having contemplated your own mortality up close and personally, to give you a little extra zip when marking the passage of another year. I don't spend a lot of time dwelling on it, but I am aware and grateful for whatever time God chooses to grant me. He is good and I am blessed beyond measure.

Thank you to all who offered a "happy birthday" wish to me this past week. I had a wonderful family celebration day and have successfully embarked on my next trip 'round the sun with a heart filled with joy and thanksgiving.

This Week at Grace – Pastor Jonathan's message this week, "Wisdom and Women: Esther's People" is inspired by Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22. This week our children's choir will sing *I Shall Not Be Moved* at the worship service and Beckey Witthuhn will serve as liturgist! *Greeters this week are Hubert & Raejean Bicklehaupt. Those serving as ushers include Cheryl Semler and Fournier folks.* Worship begins at 9:15 with a time of snacks and coffee fellowship following. Sunday school classes meet at 10:30 - please join us!

We hope to have good representation at our Charge Conference at Ames First UMC THIS Sunday afternoon. Last year we had 8 members attend and it would be nice to increase that number this year. The session begins at 2:00 PM and is set to run until 4:30. Perhaps some folks would like to carpool/caravan. Please meet in the north side parking area of Grace at 1:10.



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 3.5 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.

Sue Bohner and Judy Miller have sign-up sheets in the Narthex for folks to sign up to help with food pick up on Fridays, Oct. 12th and Dec. 21st. Workers at the pantry are also needed on Saturdays Oct. 13th and Dec. 22nd. Please sign up and lend a hand!

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:
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

News You Can Use

Sunday, September 30

- 9:15 AM Worship – Children's choir
- 10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30 AM Sunday school
- 2:00-4:30 PM Charge Conference at First UMC in Ames

Monday, October 1

- 5:30 PM Communications

Wednesday, October 3

- 5:00 PM Children's Bells
- 7:00 PM Choir
- 8:00 PM Bell Choir

Thursday, October 4

- 7:00 PM Bible Study at McNamara's

Sunday, October 7

- 9:15 AM Worship – Choir, Communion
- 10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30 AM Sunday school
- 4:30 PM RSCC Team Meal in Fellowship Hall

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**