



The Grace Church Visitor

Grace United Methodist Church
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Passing the Peace at Grace!

Pictures shared by Sharla Mander



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

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Grace = God's Riches At Christ's Expense

April Birthdays



Kylie Spencer	4-9
Louis Reeder	4-9
Eric Hart	4-10
Tori Fournier	4-12
Troy Turner	4-14
Brad Hill	4-15
Mike Jensen	4-21
Charlie Fournier	4-21
Dee McNamara	4-23
Sarah Hults	4-25

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

April Lectionary

April 6

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

April 13

Mark 11:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47

April 18 Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 21

Act 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 13-24;
1 Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18 or
Luke 24:1-12

April 28

Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150;
Revelation 1:4:8; John 20:19-31

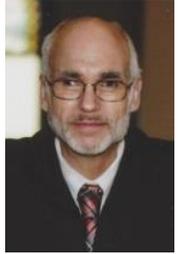


Deadline for submitting Visitor information is the 20th of each month. Information for the weekly bulletin and This Week at Grace is due in the office by noon on Wednesdays.

From Our Pastor

April 2019

At the post-general conference gathering in Fort Dodge on March 17, Bishop Laurie Haller, the episcopal leader of our Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church, shared some thoughts that I am sure she would not mind me including here. I am sure many other clergy will pass them on as well.



In John 6:1-14, the gospel writer tells the story of Jesus feeding the 5000. There are several miracles in this story, but the gist is that Jesus takes one boy's lunch—five loaves and two fish—blesses it, and distributes it to the crowd and everyone has all they want to eat. Afterwards, Jesus instructs his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." The bread crumbs fill twelve baskets!

Bishop Haller is correct when she points out that most of us just gloss over that part of the story. But Jesus does care about—and orders his followers to collect—all the broken pieces. Do you ever feel broken? Discarded? Not cared about? Well, I suppose many of us do at one time or another. What's more, we are surrounded by brothers and sisters who feel that way even now. But Jesus collects the broken pieces. He instructs us to pick up the broken pieces. Also, the words we say, the money we give, every little bit we have to offer, are scattered fragments which the power of the Holy Spirit can knit together to be something "so that *nothing* may be lost."

For a long time I've wanted to use the song "Song of Joy" as a call to worship on Easter Sunday (the version I know is by The Captain and Tennille):

*With every note I play, I play with love
With every word I sing, it's comin' from my heart
And so I sing a song of joy for you
With all the happiness this melody brings
With all the happiness this melody brings*

*Seems you always had a prayer for me
When no one cared for me, you were so kind to me
And so I sing a song of joy for you
With all the happiness this melody brings
With all the happiness this melody brings*

(Reginald Rasputin Boutte / Billy Preston)

Your Servant for Christ's Sake,
Jonathan



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

Mark & Cathy Hermanson, chair

David & Becky Barclay, Rod & Sue Bohner, Sara Dappen, David & Marlene Doolittle, Doug Doolittle, Shirley Frandson, Cathy & Greg Gerjets, Terry Gustason, Ray & Rhonda Hampton, Jim & Shelley Hassebrock, Matt & Amber Hoskins, Jenna Hoskins, George Janvrin, Jane Jackson/Fred Larson, Ginny Jewell, Brian & Casey Kahl, Dylan Kahl, David & Mary Loupee, Sharene Lykins, Chuck & Ruby Matheason, Norm & Cindy Spurlock, Tim & Kim Tryon, Rick & Grace Welke, Lon & Beckey Witthuhn

Palm Sunday



Palm Sunday is April 14th. Our young children will enter the sanctuary joyfully waving palm branches as the congregation sings. *Praise Him, Praise Him.* The *Touch of Grace Bells* Choir will share special music. The morning's message will be shared in a reader's theatre style.

Maundy Thursday Service



Our Maundy Thursday service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 18th. Pastor Jonathan will lead us in this special service, the Chancel Choir will sing and Communion will be served as we honor Christ's last supper with his disciples. As the service concludes, the altar will be cleared, the lights dimmed and all will leave the sanctuary in silence.

Easter Sunday



At our Easter morning service on April 21st, our youth members will help to dress the altar including adding several lilies to the display. The Chancel Choir will sing and the service will conclude with the singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus" by the choir and any and all who choose to participate in that most joyous celebration of Christ's Resurrection!

April Volunteers

Sunday, April 7

Liturgist – Becky Barclay
Greeters – Cindy Spurlock, Chuck & Ruby Matheason
Ushers – Jim & Shelley Hassebrock
Rod & Sue Bohner

Sunday, April 14 – Palm Sunday

Liturgist – Terry Gustason
Greeters – Casey, Dylan & Emmerson Kahl
Cindy Spurlock
Ushers – George Janvrin, Doug Doolittle
Dave & Becky Barclay
Bell Concert Greeters/Ushers
Terry Gustason, David & Mary Loupee

Thursday, April 18 – Maundy Thursday

Greeter/Ushers – David & Mary Loupee
Terry Gustason

Sunday, April 21 - Easter

Liturgist – Gloria Sampson
Greeters – Chuck & Ruby Matheason
Ushers – Rod & Sue Bohner

Sunday, April 28

Liturgist – Claudia Pauk
Greeters – Cindy Spurlock, Cathy Hermanson
Ushers – Tim & Kim Tryon, Dave Doolittle
Jim Hassebrock

Sunday Brunch – Rhonda Hampton (milk and coffee)
Amber Hoskins (2 orange juice)
Amber Hoskins & Dave Doolittle (clean-up)

Bulletins – Cathy Hermanson

Newsletter fold & send – Chuck & Ruby Matheason

3rd Sunday Brunch



Our February Brunch was enjoyed on March 3rd by a crowd of 70 people. Sharla Mander, Cheryl Semler, Gini Michel, Patsy Jensen,

Tori Fournier and Tony Blue hosted this month. \$1,042 was raised for the Taylor Family plus an additional \$300 from the UMW. On March 17th the March Brunch fed 41 and realized a profit of \$237.34 which will be sent to the Heifer Project! Please join us April 28th for the final brunch until fall. On the menu: Baked French Toast and proceeds after expenses will go to Mobility Worldwide (P.E.T.)

Our Prayers

Marjorie Dale; LeRoy Johnson; Sharon Matson; Jean Hassebrock; Emmerson Kahl; Raelyn Miller; Helen Caruth; Emily Meier; Orville Carlson; Kermit Miskell; Lois Johnson; George Sellers; Garry Gerjets; Pat Skowronski; Jackie Royer; Cooper Leeman; Taylor family

Our Presence

Attendance Mar 3 – Mar 24:
Worship: 358 Total – 90 avg

Our Gifts

Offering – Mar 3 – Mar 24:
\$15,483.85

Our Service



We appreciate the folks that help keep our walkways safe by sprinkling the “salt” on icy/snowy walks. Keep in mind that we are not to put that salt on the back (east side) steps as it will ruin them.

Our Witness



We appreciate our March liturgists Terry Gustason, Owen Hubert, Kurt Carlson, Gloria Sampson, George Janvrin



We are thankful for the big crew who helped with Grace Church’s turn at the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry on March 2nd. Dave & Mary Loupee, Cheryl Semler, Christine Semler-Blue, Eric Dowe, Jonathan Cooney and Cathy Hermanson served 10 families/31 people. Our next service date is Saturday, May 11th.

New Baby



Leah Elizabeth Niebaum arrived on March 17, 2019 to the delight of her parents, Elizabeth and Fred Niebaum. Leah is the pride and joy of her brand-new, first-time grandparents, Rick and Grace Welke! Congratulations to all!

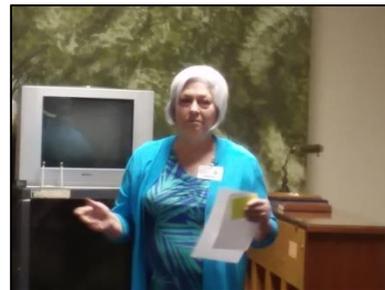
UMW News



The United Methodist Women of Grace United Methodist Church met on March 13, 2019 with 12 members present. President Gloria Sampson opened the meeting with a prayer

followed by the Women’s Purpose.

Marsha Taylor a Hospice volunteer for 22 years shared her story of how she became involved in hospice care. She gave an inspiring account of her experiences. And though she explained she got back way more love than she gave I think most of us agree that anyone who had Marsha be one of their volunteers at a time of need would be most blessed.



The Secretary’s and Treasurer’s reports were read and approved. The Treasurer’s balance is \$832.04

Tep Reeder gave us an outline of what Call to Prayer and Self Denial is. She explained where funds go and what they are used for. She asked the question what is the power of call to prayer and self-denial.

Old Business: Sharla reported on the Kiwanis lasagna dinner. She and Tep had done the baking at church and were helped in serving with several circle members. We received \$280 from Kiwanis and \$30 in sale of pans of lasagna. Disbursements were \$35.75 to Fareway and \$76.88 to Sam’s Club. The remaining \$197.37 was given to the Touch of Grace Bell Choir for bell repair.

Gloria reported on the 5th book we purchased for the reading program “When Did Everybody Else Get Old” She highly recommended it.

New Business: Some discussion was given on Health Kits that will be given at November In-Gathering. Proceeds from the October Brunch will go to that project. Further discussion will be at coming meetings. In-Gathering is a district event Gloria also mentioned that there are always other needs such as quilt making. We can contact Gloria if interested in doing these projects.

Trivia was given by Terry. When did our circle become United Methodist Women – 1973 and when did the Faith Evening Circle begin -1964.

Hostess was Sue Bohner

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 10 with Mission Moment: Nancy Uran; Program: Erma Schaeffer; Hostess: Sue Bohner; Trivia: Sharla Mander
Submitted: Terry Gustason

Loaves & Fishes News



Please remember to support the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. New Canned and boxed goods are always appreciated, but consider paper products (tissues, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, paper towels) and things we don't always think of like salt, pepper, baking soda, baking powder. One lady mentioned they often get flour and sugar, but need the other ingredients too, if they want food to taste good. **Our next Saturday service date is May 11th. We'll need 4 or 5 volunteers from 9:30-noon on Saturday morning and someone(s) to pick up donated food (baked goods, fruits and veggies) at the Lincoln Center Hy-Vee at 8:00 on Friday morning, May 10th.**

New Members



Grace Church was pleased to welcome Gay Coltrain as a new member and to welcome back her daughter, Dee McNamara, on Sunday, March 24th. Gay comes to us from the United Methodist Church in Eldon, IA and, according to our records, Dee never officially left us following her husband, Brian's new assignment back in 2007. Welcome to both women! (See picture on page 6).

New Chairs!

Our faithful Trustees announced half of the new folding chairs ordered for Fellowship Hall have been delivered with the other half expected soon. The retiring chairs are offered on a "give as you wish"/free will basis and the first batch disappeared very quickly! There will be a few more when the rest of the new ones arrive. The new chairs were paid for, in part, with undesignated memorial gifts and a donation from the Grace Church Quilters.



Touch of Grace Bells Concert

A Touch of Grace Bells

Handbell Concert

with
The Brethren
Free Will Offering

Palm Sunday
April 14, 2019
2:00 pm

Grace United Methodist
Church | 624 Elm Ave
Story City, IA

1st concert in
20 years!

Lilies for Remembrance



Let's fill our sanctuary with beautiful Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday. You are invited to bring in a lily plant during Holy Week or on Easter morning. Story City Floral & Garden is selling the plants for \$15 and will deliver them to the church if you ask them. (Deadline for ordering lilies is April 15) *We will not be placing orders through the church office.* If you'd prefer, you may bring a lily of your own. If you want to pay tribute to loved ones either as a memorial for those who have passed or in honor for those who are still with us, simply fill out this form and drop it in the offering plate by Palm Sunday (April 14). **NOTE: Do NOT include money with this form. If ordering your plant through the local florist, please call (515)733-2760 and work with them directly.**

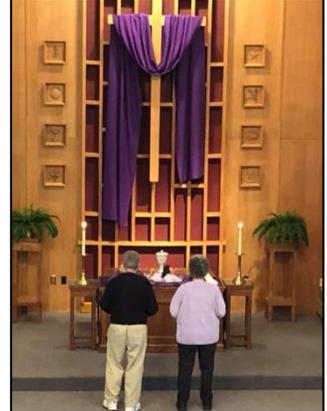
My name _____

of plants _____

In honor/memory of

Pictures of Grace

Pictures shared by Sharla Mander, Cathy Hermanson



Grace UMC Council
Unofficial Minutes March 25, 2019 meeting

Present: Becky Barclay (Finance), Pastor Jonathan, David Loupee (SPRC); Mary Loupee (Treasurer), Terry Gustason (Lay Leader), Cheryl Semler (Worship), Gloria Sampson (Missions/UMW); Cathy Hermanson (Communications/rec. secretary)

Jonathan, serving as pro tem chairman, offered a prayer and opened the meeting.

Cheryl/Terry moved the January minutes be accepted. Motion passed.

Finance: Becky reported we're in good shape financially right now – generous giving in March helped with the February deficit. All bills will be paid by the end of the month and the February and March apportionment payments were made. Jonathan informed us that the report is a motion in and of itself. It doesn't require a second. The report was approved.

Pastor's Report: Jonathan shared that he is officially a member of the Iowa Conference now – transferred from the Missouri Conference. He reported participating/attending several local and Conference activities in February and March including active work with the Story City Kiwanis – one of the projects they are working on is the Teen Maze for 7th grades for school districts in the area. He has also attended a meeting with the Economic Development Council, the Follinglo presentation, the *Wizard of Oz* RSHS production, a Gideon's breakfast and the Bishop's meeting on "A Way Forward". He will attend a meeting of the Conference Elders on April 19th and will lead a Lay Servant Training seminar here at the church on April 23. Jonathan is doing special work with the Memorial and Membership Committees and has reactivated the CDT. With work progressing on the parsonage kitchen cupboards, he is prepared to take a week or so of vacation time (traveling to Utah) when work on the actual kitchen begins. He reported our District Superintendent Carol Kress attended worship at Grace on March 24th.

Committee Reports: Ministry Areas

Worship: Cheryl reported Worship Committee is planning to follow our tradition of children carrying palm leaves into our worship service on Palm Sunday. Pastor is working on involving 7 readers to share the passion scriptures as his message that Sunday. The bell choir will play and will also perform a special concert that afternoon with The Brethren men's quartet as special guests. Priscilla Johnson, Lynn Henricks and Erma Schaeffer are heading up a coffee time following the concert. Dave & Mary Loupee & Terry Gustason will serve as ushers for the concert. Cheryl shared the recommendation of the worship committee that our *Winter Weather Closing Policy* be revisited. An idea that is being worked on suggests by 6:30 AM the pastor, trustees chair and lay leader/council chair could communicate regarding worship and Sunday school that morning. The decision would be based on weather and travel advisories, DOT and law enforcement appeals, and conditions in Story City and the surrounding area. Cathy Hermanson would send out e-mail messages and post the closing on Facebook. If we establish a phone tree, we could have volunteers who would agree to call all of the people on their directory page, or at least 5 or 6 families. Notice would be placed on KCCI. Folks questioning the status may always call the pastor. No action was taken and work continues on refining a plan.

Christian Education: The committee is set to meet on Sunday, April 7. Plans are being initiated for a 2020 Confirmation class. Cathy reported Andrea Jensen requested being relieved of her responsibilities as Sunday school teacher for middle school students. Shelley Hart, Casey Kahl and Amber Hoskins all volunteered to help finish the school year.

Missions: Gloria reported over \$1300 was sent to the Taylor family as a result of the February brunch and a UMW gift. Grace Church served 10 families and 31 individuals at Loaves and Fishes on March 2nd. Five prayers shawls were delivered, over \$230 was sent to the Heifer Project from the March brunch and \$283 will be sent to Iowa flood victims as a result of special giving.

UMW: Gloria reported \$197 was given to the bell repair fund as a result of the Kiwanis dinner the UMW hosted in February. Work is beginning on the Scandinavian Days Pie & Ice Cream Social/sandwich line/bake sale.

Committee Reports: Administrative Area

SPRC: David reported the 2018 Statistical report was submitted. There will be a change in bookkeeper beginning April 1. Council approved hiring Adam Hubert as recommended by the SPRC to serve in that role. Dave also echoed several elements of the Pastor's Report regarding Jonathan's activities at the church, in the community and with the Conference.

Leadership Development: Jonathan cited Loretta Parker's health concerns as the reason for her stepping down as Council Chair. She will continue with her work on Trustees. Shelley Hassebrock has consented to serve as Council Chair for the remainder of 2019.

Trustees/Memorial Committee: Pastor reported half of the chairs ordered for Fellowship Hall and classrooms have been received. The cost per chair was \$20. The retiring chairs are offered to anyone who would like them. The new chairs are being paid for using undesignated memorial funds, a donation from the quilters and the donations received from those taking the old chairs.

Memorial Committee – the committee is rebooting the policy developed a few years ago regarding responsibilities. They are working with the Trustees to develop a list of wants and needs to offer as suggestions for giving, keeping in mind that once something is given to the church it becomes church property.

Communications: Cathy reported the CCLI (music licensing rights) membership is due at the end of April – Communications and Worship committees split the \$222 cost. Our Facebook presence is effective and the website updating/maintaining work continues. We're looking into video recording Jonathan's sermons and children's message to post on the website.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jonathan shared information about a Heritage Book designed to give to grieving families through the funeral home. The RS Ministerial Association member churches are considering consolidating to sponsor the books. If all 7 churches agree, the cost would be \$86 per church annual fee - more if fewer churches participate. Grace will likely participate if at least 5 other churches do.

Meeting Adjourned. Next meeting: Monday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Cathy Hermanson, Rec.Sec.



PART GIFT AND PART SALE – CASE STUDY



Susan and Kevin bought a vacant lot along Lake Michigan many years ago. They had planned to build a second home so that their children could spend their summers along the lake. However, as time went on, Kevin's job kept him in town and the children grew up before Susan and Kevin had the financial resources to build on the land.

Kevin: Over the years, that lot increased in value. It now is worth much more than what we paid for it. We paid about \$40,000 for the lakeside property and it is now worth almost \$200,000.

Susan: The lot has gone up greatly in value, and with the children out of the house we were thinking of selling the property. We wanted to sell, but we also wanted to avoid paying so much in tax on the sale. We were thinking of making a gift of 25% of the property to our favorite charity.

Kevin: I happened to be talking to a CPA at a community luncheon. He mentioned that we could probably give about twice as much with almost the same cost if we gave 25% of the property (prior to the sale) rather than writing a check after the sale. After talking to our tax advisor, we discovered that if we gave a 25% interest in the property to charity, we would receive two benefits. We would get an income tax deduction for the value of our gift plus save on capital gains tax on the 25% interest given away.

Susan: That is what we decided to do. By giving charity a 25% interest in the property prior to the sale we saved the capital gains tax on that part. The deduction on that part offset a large portion of the tax on the \$150,000 we received when the property actually sold. We are very pleased with the "double benefit" from giving the property, and our favorite charity received \$50,000, a very nice gift.

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://grace-umc.com/endow/>

April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	
			5:00 Kids' Bells 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:15 Worship - choir 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Education 2:00 Bell rehearsal	5:30 SPRC 7:00 Worship		1:30 UMW 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells			
14 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	15	16	17	18 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	19 <i>Good Friday</i>	20
8:00 Trustees 9:15 Worship - bells 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 2:00 Bell Concert	5:30 Communications		5:00 Kids' Bells 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	 7:00 Worship service		
21 <i>Easter</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:15 Worship - choir NO Coffee Fellowship NO Sunday school	5:30 Finance 6:30 Council		7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	9:30 Membership		
28	29	30	Coming Up: Sunday, May 5 – Music Sunday Sunday, May 12 – Mother's Day Sunday, May 26 – Baccalaureate and Memorial Sunday			
9:15 Worship 10:15 Brunch (P.E.T.) 10:30 Sunday School						