



March 7, 2019

Greetings friends,

This weekend we have another of those holidays we celebrate not on the actual date, but when we can pull the most family members together. My sister, niece and grandniece are coming up from Florida for the weekend, so we pushed our “Easter gathering” up by several weeks. Only 5 days into the Lenten season does feel a bit unseemly, so we’re calling it “Our Spring Fling” rather than Easter. I’ll still put together an egg hunt, though!

This will be our 18-month old grand-niece’s first exposure to snow. I’ve been hunting down snow gear to borrow for her so she can experience it up close and personally. Last weekend I received a picture of her frolicking on a white sandy beach a few miles from her home. I’m thinking she’ll have an interesting reaction to wearing a ton of clothes and venturing out into icy coldness!

This will only be her second time to be fully surrounded by all her great-aunts and uncles and cousins. She does go to daycare and shouldn’t be overwhelmed by the numbers, but the enthusiasm and general mayhem of our happy bunch in an unfamiliar setting may give her pause for a bit. I’m sure she’ll rally though and have a great time with the other kids and, of course, Trixie. Can’t wait!

This Week at Grace, The first Sunday in Lent. Pastor is using Luke 4:1-3 as inspiration for his message “Walking with Jesus: A New Normal”. A Touch of Grace Bells will play *Walk in the Light*. Greeter this week is Leah Frandson. Tony, Christine, Connor and Tanner Blue and Eric Dowe will usher. *Owen Hubert will serve as our liturgist this week*. Worship begins at 9:15 with Coffee Fellowship following at 10:15. Sunday school classes meet at 10:30. Please join us!

Thank you to Shelley Hart (lead), Casey Kahl and Amber Hoskins for signing up to teach our 5-7th graders for the remainder of the year! And also a heartfelt thank you to Andrea Jensen who has been doing such a lovely job teaching our middle school kids these past few years! We are blessed by the faithfulness of all these young women!

Sunday afternoon, March 17th all are invited up to **Trinity UMC in Ft. Dodge** to hear Bishop Laurie lead a discussion on the recently held General Conference. The event will run from 3:30-5:00pm.

Mark your calendars! *The Touch of Grace Bell Choir* will present a concert in our sanctuary on Palm Sunday, April 14th at 2:00pm to help raise funds for the refurbishment of their set of bells. Come enjoy a varied selection of songs performed by the choir! Special guest vocalists for the afternoon: *The Brethren!*

Former Grace UMC pastor, Duane O’Tool (Marlene Doolittle’s dad) is turning 90 on March 28th. You’re invited to participate in a card shower for him to help celebrate this wonderful milestone!

Duane O’Tool
506 Fourth Avenue
Coon Rapids, IA 50058

It looks like we’re due for more snow on Saturday. The church will be open and there will be a worship service on Sunday. Please use your own good judgement and heed the advice of state and local officials regarding the wisdom of venturing out under less-than-perfect winter conditions.

SPRING AHEAD! Turn your clocks ahead one hour as you ready for bed on Saturday night. Daylight Savings Time begins early on Sunday morning.

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:
Marjorie Dale; Barbara Wheeler; Emmerson Kahl; Emily Meier (Brekke granddaughter-in-law); Orville Carlson (Kurt's dad); Kermit Miskell; Lois Johnson; George Sellers; Garry Gerjets; Joan Cooney; Pat Skowronski; Jackie Royer; Cooper Leeman; Taylor family

News You Can Use

Sunday, March 10 – Daylight Savings begins

8:00 AM Trustees

9:15 AM Worship – Bells

10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM Sunday school

2:00 PM Bell choir practice

Monday, March 11

5:30 PM SPRC

7:00 PM Worship Committee

Wednesday, March 14

1:30 PM UMW

7:00 PM Choir

8:00 PM Bells

Thursday, March 15

9:00 AM Membership

Sunday, March 17

8:15 AM Mission

9:15 AM Worship

10:15 AM Brunch

10:30 AM NO Sunday school – spring break

2:00 PM Bell choir practice

3:30-5:00 PM Bishop's General Conference Discussion in Ft. Dodge at Trinity UMC

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**