



The Grace Church Visitor

Grace United Methodist Church
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www.grace-umc.com

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

Our Touch of Grace Bells Choir

Picture shared by Mark Hermanson



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

If you would like to
* add, change or remove your name from
our mailing or e-mailing list

*correct your address

*submit news to be published in
The Visitor...

Mail us the information
Grace UMC; 624 Elm Ave.

P.O. Box 67 OR

call us

(515) 733-4712 OR

email us:

office@grace-umc.com

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Grace = God's Riches At Christ's Expense

March Birthdays



Lilyah Berry	3-2
Jason Haglund	3-3
Nate Warwick	3-5
Mark Hermanson	3-8
Joan Doolittle	3-9
Judy Andrew	3-9
Krystle Ness	3-10
Carissa Myers	3-12
Jakob Lester	3-12
Cathy Gerjets	3-13
Haroldean Gorman	3-15
Pat Danger	3-16
Kenny Gookin	3-15
Kevin Whitmore	3-17
Raejean Bicklehaupt	3-18
Nicolas Hofsommer	3-18
Chase Blagg	3-19
Jacob Ness	3-20
Christine Marti	3-26
Ethan Marti	3-26
Steven Richardson	3-27
Isabel Hoskins	3-27
Julie Keech	3-27
Claudia Pauk	3-28
Zane Haglund	3-29

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

March Lectionary

March 3

Exodus 34:19-35; Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

March 10

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

March 17

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27;
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

March 24

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8;
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

March 31

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

From Our Pastor

March 2019

Lent is a time to renew wherever we are in that process that I call the divine therapy.

It's a time to look what our instinctual needs are, look at what the dynamics of our unconscious are.

Thomas Keating

I was surprised the other day to be with some United Methodist clergy who said they were uncomfortable with the season of Lent. One said she was fine with Holy Week and she'd rather just jump to there than to have to wade through the 40 days of "darkness" and introspection. And yet I don't think of it as "darkness" at all. Noah was in the ark 40 days. The children of Israel wandered the desert for 40 years. Jesus was in the wilderness for 40 days. We can actually enjoy embarking on a similar spiritual journey. Many of us may only remember Lent for its sacrifice; yet there is joy in the discipline. It is a time to find again that place where we are on the walk with Jesus.



The *Book of Worship* says that Lent is a season of forty days (not counting Sundays) that begins on Ash Wednesday (March 6) and ends on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter). The name comes from the Anglo-Saxon for "spring." Historically, it began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance for all Christians. Scripturally, I remember how Jesus "set his face toward Jerusalem" for that last trip. We can set our faces toward a deeper spiritual life and a joyous celebration of Easter.

Your Servant for Christ's Sake,
Jonathan

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.



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

Gene & Erma Schaeffer, chair

Tony & Christine Blue, Eric Dowe, Carroll & Judy Brekke, Gay Coltrain, Leah Frandson, Velda Frette, Kristopher & Jessica Hensch, Bill & Suzy Hess, Jeremy Hess, Adam & Valerie Hubert, Karen Keech, Alyssa Loots, Sharla Mander, Bill & Susan Mardock, Brian & Dee McNamara, Dave & Linda McVicker, Ashley Miller, Judy Miller, Bob & Loretta Parker, Nate & Malinda Warwick, Chase Blagg

Taylor Family News

After months and months and months of praying planning, preparing, crying, laughing, and almost giving up Father has made a way for us to move forward with a business idea that we love and are passionate about!

In order to stay in this country for a longer period of time we really need to have a professional reason why we are here. This is important to obtain a resident visa but is even more important in gaining legitimacy with and earning the trust of our local friends. They think it's really weird for us to live here just to learn language!

When we arrived here last year, we saw an immediate need for an alternative schooling option other than the schools that exist in our city. We had much stress in finding a situation that truly met our needs. We thought other expat families might feel the same way as well and so we started exploring a way that we could serve these families by facilitating a home school group that hired a local teacher to teach our kids French and Arabic.

A local friend of mine expressed her disappointment with her son's current schooling situation and so I shared with her our idea for an alternative educational option. She loved the idea and called one of her friends that helps expats launch new business endeavors. This woman put hope into our hearts and helped us knock down a few more doors

to get answers about how to make this thing work.

We will be running a learning center for expats and local families seeking a high-quality American education for their children without sacrificing growth in the Arabic and French languages. We will also have after school programs on Wednesday afternoons that would be open to any children in the community.

What we need from all of you is lots and lots of prayer for our new endeavor

Continued financial support to help us get our business up and running. Manpower in the form of short or long term teachers to assist us and someone with business expertise to help us with accounting and marketing.

Thank you so much for partnering with us on this journey through your prayers and encouragement. You are what has kept us afloat as we've gone through all of the ups and downs of this past year. We are humbled and filled with joy and oh so thankful.

Chris, Krista and family

March Volunteers

Sunday, March 3

Liturgist – Kurt Carlson

Greeters – Warwick family

Ushers – Nate & Malinda Warwick family

Sunday, March 10

Liturgist – Owen Hubert

Greeters – Leah Frandson

Ushers – Tony & Christine Blue family

Sunday, March 17

Liturgist – Cathy Hermanson

Greeters – David & Linda McVicker

Ushers – Adam & Val Hubert family

Sunday Brunch – Alyssa Loots (juice), Linda McVicker (milk), Erma Schaeffer (coffee), Loretta Parker, Erma (clean-up)

Sunday, March 24

Liturgist – Gloria Sampson

Greeters – Judy Miller

Ushers – Carroll & Judy Brekke
Gene & Erma Schaeffer

Sunday, March 31

Liturgist – George Janvrin

Greeters – Leah Frandson, Gene Schaeffer

Ushers – Sharla Mander, Suzy Hess
Alyssa & Braylen Loots

Newsletter fold & send – Bill & Susan Mardock
Erma Schaeffer

Bulletin folding – Erma Schaeffer



Our Prayers

Orville Carlson (Kurt's dad); Kermit Miskell; Lois Johnson; George Sellers; Tracy Matson; Garry Gerjets; Joan Cooney; Pat Skowronski; Jackie Royer; Cooper Leeman; Taylor family in Africa mission

Our Presence

Attendance Feb 3 – Feb 17:

Blizzard on Feb 24 – everyone urged to stay home
Worship: 253 Total – 84 avg

Our Gifts

Offering – Feb 3 – Feb 17:
\$8,806.20

Our Service



Many thanks to Erma Schaeffer, Patsy Jensen, Gini Michel, Angie Schnurstein and Cathy Hermanson for providing baked goodies for a special coffee fellowship time when the high school chorus visited!



Thank you to Sharla Mander and the UMW for hosting the Kiwanis charter dinner in February. All reports state it was a delicious meal and a delightful evening.



Thank you to our faithful Prayer Shawl knitters of the who have been providing shawls for the many folks who have appeared on our prayer list recently. Sadly, there have been many.

Our Witness



We appreciate our February liturgists: David Loupee, George Janvrin and Cathy Hermanson, Blizzard "liturgized" on February 24th.



We're thankful for Jarod Hart who is learning to play the organ and who kindly shares his musical gifts on occasional Sunday mornings.

UMW News



The United Methodist Women of Grace United Methodist Church met Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 1:30 with twelve members present. Our guest speaker was Michael Olson, counselor at the Roland-Story Middle School. He spoke of the food pantry that is maintained at the middle

school. This was begun when Mr. Town became the new principal at the middle school. He had such a program when he was at Johnston Schools. With 22% of students on free/reduced lunches it was determined there was a need for such a program. A storage area by the main office was gutted and painted with shelving from ISU and a freezer provided by the food bank. The food bank delivers supplies plus donations from groups such as 4-H and Boys Scouts maintain the pantry. Adults may visit any time during the day and on Sunday's. Sixty seven families are served with 144 more people than last year. They may come as often as needed. Coffee, cleaning supplies, women's health supplies, paper products, soap and detergent are among the most needed items plus also stocking hats, gloves, mittens, gently used coats and school supplies.

Gloria opened our meeting with a prayer and the reading of the purpose. Terry had a mission moment that focused on the lives of the first two women missionaries, Isabella Thoburn and Clara Swain, of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The minutes of the January 9th meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was given. We sent \$300 to the Taylor family after the February brunch. We received three thank you's for Christmas gifts and the cookie exchange.

Old Business: Sharla reported on the dinner we will serve on February 15th. Lasagna, salad, rolls, dessert, water, lemonade and coffee will be served.

New Business: Priscilla/Nancy moved that we send \$100 to the Roland-Story Middle School Food Bank. Motion carried. A motion was made by Erma/Tep to give money made on the lasagna dinner to the *Touch of Grace Bell* restoration fund. Motion passed. A discussion of books on the reading list: Feathered Bone, The Same Sky and Eleanor Roosevelt story was held. A reminder that the Roland-Story Choir will sing in church on Sunday, February 17.

Claudia had the trivia question: How many women in the world wide UMW? Answer 800,000!! Girls Rule!!

Next month's meeting will be Wednesday, March 13 with Tep Reeder having the Mission Moment: Call to Prayer & Self Denial: Program-Hospice Volunteer-Marsha Taylor; Hostess: Sue Bohner and Trivia: Terry Gustason.

Submitted by Terry Gustason



New Members



We were pleased to welcome the Ness family into membership with us at the end of January. Jacob and Krystle come to us from St Paul's UMC in Williamsburg, Iowa. Their children are Isabelle, Olivia and Owen.

Scout Sunday Observed



On Sunday, March 10th, 7 Grace Church Scouts helped with the worship service and conducted a flag ceremony. Thank you to Eric & Shelly Hart and Andrea Jensen for helping to make this special event happen!

Those participating this year include:

Tori Fournier

daughter of Steph and Duane Fournier

Jarrod Hart

son of Eric and Shelly Hart

Luccas Hart

son of Eric and Shelly Hart

Ella Hensch

daughter of Jessica and Kristopher Hensch

Owen Hubert

son of Adam and Valerie Hubert

Savannah Jensen

daughter of Craig Jensen & Andrea Jensen



Photo by Eric Hart

3rd Sunday Brunch

Our February 3rd Sunday Brunch was postponed to March 3rd because of bad weather. Proceeds from the "February" brunch will go to the Taylor family.

Pictures of Grace

Pictures shared by Cathy Hermanson, Amber Hoskins, Eric Hart



Thank You from Iowa Conference Treasurer!

Acknowledging Your Faithful Support

Our records indicate that your church paid 100% of your 2018 apportionments. I believe our connectional system may struggle in the short-term but will endure with even more committed Disciples for Christ. As our Vision states, may God's hope for the world be made real through faithful leaders, fruitful communities, and fire-filled people.

Blessings from your Conference Treasurer,
Maggie Biggs

Extra to the Visitor

Friends,

It is the morning after the conclusion of the special general conference of the United Methodist Church in St. Louis. Already my 91-year-old mother, who was raised by her mother and grandmother to be "a Methodist 'til I die"—has called me because one of my brothers tried to bring her up-to-date last night. By now you know that the conference was meant to try to bring our church together over the issue of human sexuality as dealt with in our *Book of Discipline*. Is homosexuality incompatible with Christian teaching, should we ordain self-avowed, practicing homosexuals, and should we conduct same-sex weddings? Regardless, we hold that all people are created by God and have sacred worth.

The conference adopted what is called the Traditionalist Plan. It keeps the current policies and encourages greater enforcement. It also allows for a graceful exit for pastors and congregations that wish to leave. But this isn't the final word. The Progressives aren't going anywhere. When the regularly-scheduled general conference meets next spring, the debate will again be lively. Nothing is set in stone. Adam Hamilton, the pastor of our largest congregation, believes that many Traditionalists pushed their plan because of the "gracious exit" provision and that they are planning on leaving, anyway. Whatever happens, the United Methodist Church will need each and every one of us.

I have said from the beginning that I would not make any hasty decisions one way or another. Some of us have said we would consider leaving if more progressive policies were not adopted. We cannot make that choice yet. Christian mission means carrying forth our witness in our community in our everyday lives. Let us not allow the rancorous debate at the general church level to derail what we are called to do in Story County. Let us be in prayer and love.

Your Servant for Christ's Sake,

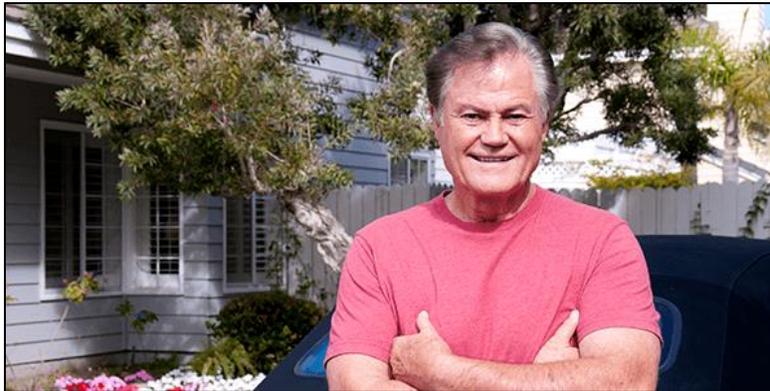
Jonathan



February 25, 2019 - After the storm by Cathy



A BEQUEST TO SAVE TAXES--CASE STUDY



Thomas was a widower who had a great love for our organization. As an individual who had directly benefited from our work, Thomas wanted to thank us with a gift from his estate.

Thomas told his attorney that he wished to make a bequest to his favorite charity. Thomas' estate included some stocks, real estate and an IRA. Thomas' attorney recommended that he give the appreciated stock and real estate to his children and leave his IRA to charity.

Thomas: My attorney told me that if I gave the stock and real estate to my children, these assets would receive a step-up in basis at my death. My children could then sell them without paying tax. However, if I gave my children my IRA, the IRA would be subject to estate and income tax. After paying all of these taxes, very little would be left for my family. By giving the IRA to this organization, I could make a nice gift and avoid any additional tax for my estate and children.

Thomas contacted his IRA custodian to obtain a beneficiary designation form. He filled out the form and designated our organization as the 100% recipient of his IRA account. Thomas' attorney then specified in Thomas' will the bequest of his other assets to his children.

Thomas: I was so impressed with my attorney's advice that I named him executor of my will!

Thomas called and notified us of his bequest. Thomas was pleased that because our organization was a tax exempt institution, it would receive the full amount of the IRA value when he passed away, creating a legacy for the future.

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> .

You also may want to make it easy and convenient to have a bequest included in your will. The language below shows how a bequest can very easily be included in your will. Please feel free to give this information to your attorney.

Example bequest language - Please feel free to change the numbers or percentages as you desire.

1. Bequest of cash

"I bequeath the sum of \$10,000 to Grace United Methodist Endowment Fund of Story City."

2. Bequest of a percent of the estate

"I devise and bequeath 20% of the remainder and residue of property owned at my death, whether real or personal, and wherever located to Grace United Methodist Endowment Fund of Story City."

3. Contingent Bequest

"If my brother John Doe survives me, I devise and bequeath 20% of the remainder and residue of property owned at my death, whether real or personal, and wherever located to John Doe. If John Doe does not survive me, then I devise and bequeath 20% of my residuary estate, whether real or personal property and wherever located to Grace United Methodist Endowment Fund of Story City."



March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10-Noon Grace serves at Loaves & Fishes *CHANGE CLOCKS At Bedtime!*
3 9:15 Worship 10:15 Brunch (February) 10:30 Sunday school 11:30 Education mtg	4	5	6 Ash Wednesday 5:00 Kids' Bells 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	7 9:00 Membership Mtg	8	9
10 8:00 Trustees 9:15 Worship 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday school	11 5:30 SPRC 7:00 Worship	12	13 1:30 UMW 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	14	15	16 1:30-3:00pm Briefing about General Conf. @ New Hope UMC in DSM
17 8:15 Missions 9:15 Worship 10:15 Brunch 10:30 <u>NO</u> Sun. school 3:30-5:00 Briefing w Bishop in Ft. Dodge	18 <i>Spring Break</i> > > >	19 > > >	20 > > 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	21 > > 	22 > > >	23
24 9:15 Worship 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday school	25 5:30 Finance 6:30 Council	26	27 5:00 Kids' Bells 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	28	29	30 
31 9:15 Worship 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday school	Looking Ahead: April 14 – Palm Sunday – bells play 2:00pm Bell Choir Concert – special guests <i>The Brethren</i> April 18 – 7:00pm Maundy Thursday service April 21 – Easter Sunday					