



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.

Members of Our Grace Dream Team

Picture shared by Cathy Hermanson * Poem by Terry Gustason

The ladies of Grace arrive on a mission,
They've come to fulfill a Scandi tradition,

They come with a smile, they come with a griddle,
They know what to do, the plan is no riddle,

It's Wednesday, June 5th, days before the big celebration,
They will mix, roll, then cutout without hesitation,

Heat the griddles, fry them up, with time to cool,
Six to a package, 44 packages in all, these ladies rule!!

POTATO CAKES an exceptionally fine Norwegian treat,
Made by the Ladies of Grace, an accomplished feat.



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

If you would like to

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Grace = God's Riches At Christ's Expense

July Birthdays



Jeanne Hohneke	7-3
Elizabeth Rickerl	7-3
Dave McVicker	7-9
Sheri Allen	7-10
Stephanie Fournier	7-14
Cale Gregori	7-14
Jim Hassebrock	7-15
Suzi Hess	7-16
Jarod Hart	7-16
Leota Berg	7-19
Joann Shelton	7-19
Shelley Hart	7-19
Parker Witthuhn	7-19
Natalie Rasmussen	7-20
Cade Diehl	7-21
Malinda Warwick	7-23
Kate Feil	7-25
Gloria Sampson	7-27
Denise Carlson	7-27
Erma Schaeffer	7-29
Scott Richardson	7-30

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

July Lectionary

July 7

2 Kings 5:1-1; Psalm 30;
Galatians 6:(1-6) 1-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 14

Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82;
Colossans 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

July 21

Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52 or 82;
Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

July 28

Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85;
Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19); Luke 11:1-13

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

July 2019

Dear Friends,

I cannot thank Terry Gustason enough for serving as our lay member to annual conference last month. It was long weekend but there was a lot of activity.

There was a lot of talk about budget cuts due to a marked decrease in apportionment giving sent to the Iowa conference from local churches. This is not new; it follows a trend begun some years ago. The conference may receive something like 66 percent of the apportionments this year. We are blessed that Grace United Methodist Church recognizes its vital role in the mission of the connectional church and is on track to support the conference one hundred percent again this year.

Many agencies and ministries—including our campus ministries—will suffer. Financial stress and changing approaches to ministry led to a motion to sell Pictured Rocks Camp. Camping is near and dear to many hearts so that discussion took all morning.

Among other things, the conference voted to "disapprove" the Traditional Plan as passed at the special general conference in February. That plan strengthened our denomination's ban on the ordination of homosexual clergy and our clergy presiding over same-sex weddings. This resolution to disapprove is not binding on the conference or its churches in any way. But I've noticed that many conferences have made very clear statements and taken decisive action along these same lines. I was surprised how quickly we elected lay and clergy members to next year's general conference. I was told it was because progressive elements in Iowa (and probably elsewhere) had worked together to elect a slate—something traditionalists have done for years. This confirms what I've said—this conversation is far from over.

Yes, I am officially transferred into the Iowa Conference. That makes it harder to get rid of me.

Your Servant for Christ's Sake,

Jonathan

Don't Stop Me If You've Heard This Dept.

I was gonna tell a time-traveling joke, but you guys didn't like it. [or I don't like to repeat myself.]

*Picture of Pastor Jonathan with Bishop Laurie Haller



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

Special Visitors!



We were so pleased to welcome the Taylors for a visit in June. It was wonderful to see everyone and to learn about their adventures with education in a faraway land. Pastor Jonathan encouraged the kids to tell us a little bit about how life is different between Iowa and their new home. As always, we enjoyed hearing from this beautiful and much-loved family!



July Volunteers

Sunday, July 7 – Tori Fournier & Haley Chamberlain sing

Liturgist – Chase Blagg

Greeters – Warwick family

Ushers – Nate, Malinda, Riker Warwick

Chase & Skylar Blagg

Sunday, July 14 – Judy Andrews sings

Liturgist – Owen Hubert

Greeters – Dave & Linda McVicker

Ushers – Adam, Valerie, Owen, Camille and Eli Hubert

Sunday, July 21 – Jarod Hart plays organ

Liturgist – Gloria Sampson

Greeters – Sharla Mander, Leah Frandson

Ushers – Carroll & Judy Brekke

Gene & Erma Schaeffer

Bakers – Linda McVicker, Sharla Mander
Dee McNamara

Sunday, July 28 – LYLAS sing

Liturgist – Owen Hubert

Greeters – Erma Schaeffer, Suzy Hess

Ushers – Tony, Christine, Connor & Tanner Blue

Bulletin and Newsletter folders – Loretta Parker
Erma Schaeffer

Our Sympathy



Our sympathy to the family and friends of Patricia(Pat) Skowronski who passed away on June 12th. A funeral was held at Grace UMC on Saturday, June 15. May our memories of Pat be a blessing.

Community Worship in the Park



Fifteen Grace Church folks attended the Scandinavian Days worship in the park service on Sunday, June 9th. Chris Dahl and his wife from Riverside Bible Camp led us in several songs and Pastor Kurt from Immanuel shared the scripture readings. Paul Wierson from St. Petri delivered a lovely Pentecost message. It was a tad chilly, but a lovely morning in a charming setting. We hope more folks will attend this special service in coming years.

Our Prayers

Karen Keech (Kent's wife); Rich Peterson (Erma's brother); George Sellers; Lois Johnson; Judy Skaare (Jonathan's sister); Emily Meier; Garry Gerjets; Cooper Leeman; Taylor family

Our Presence

Attendance June 2 – June 23:

Worship: 245 Total – 82 avg

Our Gifts

Offering – June 2 – June 23:

\$11,351.60

Our Service

Thank you to all the volunteers who brought delicious goodies to share at our Scandi Days bake sale. We couldn't have had such a successful sale without your help and generous contributions!

Thank you to our mowers who keep our lawn looking so nice! Those who helped in May and June include: Kevin Doyle, Mike Jensen, Rod Bohner, Adam Hubert, Dave Loupee, Dave Doolittle.

Our Witness

We appreciate our June liturgists Dave Doolittle, Jonathan Cooney, Nate Warwick and Beckey Witthuhn.

Thank you to our June special musicians – Jarod Hart, George Janvrin, Owen Hubert & Riker Warwick, Josiah Soderstrum.

We're thankful for the Taylor family and their recent visit.

Thank You!



Fred Larson recently closed his law office and donated several lovely chairs to Grace Church. Look for them in the narthex area and the chapel.

Thank you, Fred, and we wish you all the best in your retirement!

Mange Tusen Takk



THANK YOU are two words and two words are not enough to express the gratitude we feel for our church family and the support they continue to give to their church and church family.

The Pie/Ice Cream and Pulled Pork Sandwich line we do during Scandinavian Days is an important and BIG event for our church every year. And every year, our church family steps up to support that day in so many ways---baking pies, making homemade baked goods, donating the pork, working to prepare in many capacities before, during and after the BIG event.

A special thank you to Doug Doolittle who has provided the pork for our sandwich line for several years. His generous donation is so very much appreciated each year. We also thank Erma Schaeffer who cooks up and shreds all that pork – whew!

We also are grateful for the church staff - Cathy, who posted information on TWAG, newsletter, bulletins and Facebook, and who took phone orders on Friday. Dave, who set up tables and assisted where needed. To Pastor Jonathan for his always appreciated, prayerful support and who was there to help welcome guests.

Of course we thank all our church congregation for supporting this event and all that participate in our Scandinavian Days Pie Ice Cream Social, Sandwich line and bake sale.

Thank you.

United Methodist Women

Opportunities to Grow!



We are in need of an Education Chair or co-chairs, a Middle School Sunday school co-teacher, and a facilitator for the Adult Sunday school class this fall! Please let Jonathan know if you are interested in learning more about any of these important positions!

Little Free Pantry



Our Little Free Pantry sponsored by the R-S Ministerial Association is finished and installed just to the north of Loaves and Fishes! Joe Ahrens built and installed it, and Shelli Hassebrock's Ames High art students painted it with a carousel theme. We're getting some signage from PDG to complete the project. It'll be a wonderful way to help hungry people throughout the week.

Ashlee Mullenbach will coordinate volunteers to check and restock it daily; she's looking for 30 people to check it one day each month. Please talk about it with people you know and have them contact Ashlee at admullenbach@hotmail.com if they're interested in finding out how they can help. You can find out more about the Little Free Pantry movement at www.littlefreepantry.org

Report on the 2019 Iowa Annual Conference

by Terry Gustson

 I am lay leader and one of the things I can do is attend Iowa Annual Conference. It is held in Des Moines at Iowa Events Center. I had never been, not sure what it all entailed, I talked to Ray Hults and George Janvirin who have gone for some heads up. Now that I am retired and as I get older I tend to seek my comfort zone. Just doing things I like and I find every now and then I need to shake things up and do something that I might not normally do. Iowa Annual Conference fit that bill. It was definitely not on my bucket list.

My understanding that John Wesley began the concept of Annual Conference with "questions and answers with Rev. John Wesley" A time to meet and discuss the workings of the church. Circuit riders came together to discuss what they believe and what they disagreed on. Laity – lay members were added later.

There were a lot of younger people who were not only there, but stepping up to serve on committees and in leadership roles. I think that is a good sign for the Methodist Church. There was a good mix of all ages of delegates including (as my brother-in-law calls us) the 'Q tips' – white hair, white sneakers.

Again, there were some good signs for the Methodist Church and each is very much needed. Methodists face many challenges ahead and there was acknowledgement that it is a sad time for the church.

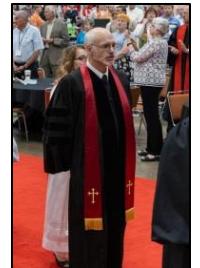


It began Friday night with two sessions – clergy and laity. From then on we met together. Saturday, Sunday and Monday we met from 9:00 AM to 8:30 PM with breaks for lunch and supper. Tuesday

we met from 9:00 until noon. Methodists are physically tough and I did okay but I was drinking a diet Coke at 9:30 Tuesday morning – I needed some caffeine to get me to that noon deadline.

The Conference theme was **Creating Difference Makers: In Ministry with the Poor**. One of the things we were invited to do was bring gift cards to give to people in need or who were helping us. One of the ladies at the table gave one to a cleaning lady at her hotel. It reminded me of times when we have done *Random Acts of Kindness* or *Pay it Forward* in our church. It was a good reminder that this can be a year-'round project and not just at Christmas.

They had presentations where retiring clergy were recognized, a memorial service for those who died, saluting 200 years in mission work, 150 years of UMW, Heifer project, lay ministries, lay speakers and the clergy appointments for 2019-2020. Sunday morning is a service for all clergy with ordination of new ministers and elders. Jonathan was recognized during this service for transferring from the Missouri Conference to our Iowa Annual Conference. Sadly, since I was probably the only person who doesn't own a camera or take pictures, we have no record of that event. (Ed note – found a couple on the Conference website!)



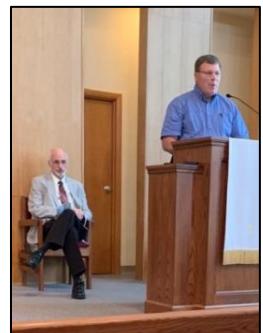
I attended a couple workshops: one on Missions and one on a multicultural church in Lansing, Michigan. It is headed by the two ministers who were also the Conference keynote speakers. They have members from 14 different nations worshiping in their church.

We got down to the business of the church. We approved a 2020 budget that is 16% less than last year, 1.6 million dollars less. Attendance is down, apportionments are down. So several organizations, such as Bidwell, Women at the Well, Shusler Hall, Hawthorne Hall and others will have much less to work with for the coming year.

We elected delegates to the 2020 General Conference in Minneapolis and North Central Jurisdictional Conference July 2020 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. We debated and voted on Action Plans for many various subjects. On your cell phones, you have weather apps, shopping apps, lots of apps. On my right at Conference, I had the Jonathan Cooney app. He filled me in on history of things, could answer my questions and I am sure was thinking, "Terry we have already covered this." For me it was a learning experience and I gained a great appreciation for the people who do step up and serve on committees. It was interesting, at times long, and we heard some very passionate heartfelt opinions and pleas. I agree with some things and disagree with others. It was a lot to digest, but overall a good experience for me. And, did I mention a rather interesting ride on a golf cart from the convention center to the parking lot? A very nice gentlemen told me to "get on and tell me if you see any cars!!!"

June Pictures of Grace

Pictures shared by Sharla Mander, Cathy Hermanson





Grace United Methodist Church Council

Unofficial Minutes June 24, 2019 meeting

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

David offered a prayer and Michelle opened the meeting.

Cheryl/David moved the minutes be accepted. Motion passed.

Finance: Candi reported we're looking very good from a financial aspect. Apportionments are current. The Scandi Days service did not have an adverse effect on our giving for the month. Compared to previous years, we're doing fine with our giving – at the midway point of this year we are at about 50% of our budget. Candi noted that any bills that need to be paid in the next 2 weeks should be submitted by June 26, Adam and family are vacation bound June 28-July7.

Pastor's Report: Jonathan reported the Annual Conference went well. He shared some of the news in the July VISITOR. Much discussion concerning the recently-voted-upon-at-the-Bishop's Conference, Traditional plan – this issue is not yet resolved.. Jonathan noted several Annual Conferences are defying the recent vote and have continued to ordain gay pastors. Jonathan thought the Scandinavian Days lunch went very well. He shared that our **Charge Conference date has been set for October 13th.** The Ames Calvary pastor will conduct our conference and Jonathan will conduct Calvary's. Both are scheduled for the same day, but it isn't clear whether they will meet at the same place. The Leadership Development Committee will begin meeting more regularly to fill our leadership roster for 2020. Jonathan will meet with the three Confirmation families this week – plans are for the class to meet for 25 sessions on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 beginning September 4th – may tweak meeting time on the In-service Wednesday each month. He will be using the new UMC curriculum and tentative plans are to have *Confirmation Sunday on March 30th*. Jonathan reiterated he is enrolled in a Sept 29-Oct 4 Spiritual Academy in Dubuque to complete CEU this year. He is planning to be out of the office July 8-14 – Nate will deliver the message on the 14th. Jonathan will likely take a week off in August sometime before our fall schedule kicks in.

Committee Reports: Ministry Areas

Worship: Cheryl reported no meeting in June – Annual Conference.

Christian Education: Gini sent a report reiterating the need for various staff in that department.

Missions: Gloria shared a thank you recently received from Worldwide International (P.E.T.) sharing that Grace recently sent a check for \$644.92 which is enough to sponsor two carts! We've been supporting this cause since 2006. Candi said she and Kevin have seen people using carts when they've visited Jamaica. Gloria also shared a thank you from Heifer and recommended folks visit the Heifer International Headquarters in Arkansas.

UMW: Gloria reported she didn't have final figures for the Scandi Days endeavors. She knew the Sandwich Line had around a \$1,000 profit which will likely go toward the parsonage kitchen project. She noted lots of good volunteer help showed up and everyone seemed to have a good time. The annual UMW breakfast meeting is on July 10th at 8:30.

Committee Reports: Administrative Areas

SPRC: David reported SPRC didn't meet (Annual Conference), but will gather in July. Each SPRC member is to meet with their assigned member of the staff to visit about joys and concerns.

Leadership Development: Jonathan reported the committee is continuing the search for a new Education Chair or co-chair. Also needed is a co-teacher to join Craig Jensen for the middle school class. The Adult Education class is in need of a facilitator as Rhonda Hampton has decided to step away from that responsibility. Jonathan is interested in filling that role, but may need someone else to help team teach. The Committee will begin meeting once a month to fill the 2020 roster of responsibilities for our church family.

Trustees/Memorial Committee: Didn't meet in June.

Endowment as of March 1 - Equity is up 11.8%.

Communications: Cathy reported the website is current and encouraged everyone to check it out. Facebook is thriving – Sharla and Cathy have lots of updates with pictures and video of our worship service every Sunday afternoon/evening. She again noted a FB account is not necessary to get access to that information – there is a link on our website! Cathy shared that a tripod to use with cell phones has been recently acquired to help record sermons. Grace Church is to report music usage to CCLI this year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Jonathan shared that Bob Parker has volunteered to organize our library (UMW Reading Program is independent) using a special computer program he has.

The Council is thankful for the recent donation by Fred Larson of 9 occasional chairs. The comfortable chairs are currently being used in the narthex area and the chapel.

Meeting Adjourned. Next meeting: Monday, July 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Hermanson, Rec.Sec.



DEFERRED GIFT ANNUITY -- CASE STUDY



Several years ago Larry and Allison invested \$30,000 in what they believed to be an attractive stock. It turned out to be a very wise decision, because the value of the stock increased to \$100,000 a few years later. Though they were not in need of additional income at the time, the couple decided to cash in on this growth and began considering selling the stock.

Allison: We had had a good year and were looking for ways to maximize deductions and reduce what we owed in taxes. At the same time, we had been exploring the best way to make a gift to our favorite charity.

Larry: Allison and I were both age 50 at the time, in good health and still working. And though we didn't really need extra current income, we were planning to retire at age 65 so we were always interested in smart retirement planning. Our goal was to be able to live comfortably and travel in our motorhome to visit friends and family.

Allison: I remember when we met with a gift planner. He explained the benefits of setting up a deferred gift annuity. Instead of selling, we could give our stock to our favorite charity and receive an immediate charitable tax deduction. Plus, when we turn 65, the deferred gift annuity would make annual retirement income payments to us for our lifetime.

Larry: We decided to set up the deferred gift annuity. And we experienced first hand each of the benefits Allison mentioned: we received a charitable tax deduction and tax savings immediately. And now that we're retired, we receive income each year that helps make our retirement travel possible. On top of all of this, the deferred gift annuity makes a portion of the income payments we receive tax free.

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/endow/>.

July 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3	4 	5	6
7 Chase 8:45 Java with Jesus 9:15 Worship with Communion Tori & Hailey sing	8	9 Jonathan is out of the office	10 8:30 UMW Breakfast Mtg	11	12	13 
14 Owen H 8:00 Trustees 8:45 Java with Jesus 9:15 Worship Nate - Message Judy A sings	15 5:30 SPRC 7:00 Worship	16 7:00 PEO meeting	17 Summer Stretch meets at Grace 5:30 Leadership D mtg	18	19	20
21 Gloria 9:15 Worship Jarod Hart music 10:15 Coffee with treats	22	23 	24	25	26 	27 9:30 Grace hosts Loaves & Fishes (Volunteers needed)
28 Owen H 8:45 Java with Jesus 9:15 Worship LYLAS sing	29 5:30 Finance 6:30 Council	30	31 			