



July 3, 2019

Greetings friends,

I think I may have mentioned once or twice before how much I value our church family. I look forward to seeing folks each week and love to observe my friends as they greet and interact with one another. I can be having a miserable start to my day and just stepping into the building on Sunday morning can lift my spirits. How even more comforting it is then, to further step in and engage in the friendships I find with the precious folks here.

Some of us have relationships with fellow members that include nearly daily interactions; others only see their Grace friends once a week or month. Some friendships are newer, some span generations. But no matter the frequency of contact, no matter the duration of the relationship, one can find a compassionate, genuinely caring community of support at Grace Church.

I believe it is important to acknowledge special associations like this in our lives as a way of giving thanks for the gift of them. In my lifetime, I've had the privilege of attending three different churches. In two of them, I found this special feeling of belonging. In the third, I wasn't able to connect on that deeper level and ended up leaving after only a year. It wasn't anyone's fault – the church was full of lovely people of faith. I guess I just didn't meet the right folks to help ease the transition and find a place within that membership. Or maybe it was God's way of moving me to where I needed to be.

Regardless, I believe that not-quite-fitting-in experience informs my utter gratefulness to embrace the welcome and acceptance I so enjoy here at Grace. It helps me remember to reach out to new faces with a hand of welcome and friendship. It helps me appreciate the gift of family all the more.

This Week at Grace Jonathan's message, "Following Jesus: Dirty Feet" is inspired by Luke 10:1-11, 16-20. Tori Fournier and Hayley Chamberlain will share special music with us. The Warwick family will serve as greeters and ushers on Sunday with Chase Blagg as liturgist. Come early at 8:45 for Java with Jesus and our worship service begins at 9:15 – please join us!

The Roland-Story Back to School Supply Drive poster is up in the narthex. Please help yourself to the list you would like to fill. Please return to the narthex area by July 30th. If you would rather donate money, the Angel Tree program plans to add a book to each kit this year.

Can you please help? We are in need of a Middle School Sunday school co-teacher, and a co-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!

You're invited to come to church a bit early on summer Sunday mornings for 'Java with Jesus' and your Grace Church family. Beginning at 8:45 each Sunday, plan to bring a thermal cup of your preferred morning beverage and meet in the narthex for a little fellowship before the service begins. On the fourth Sunday of June (June 23), and the third Sundays of July and August, the serving G.R.A.C.E. team will host Coffee Fellowship with home-baked goodies following the morning service.

Thrivent Community – Iowa Group invites interested folks to participate in their revitalization project: cleaning up, planting and landscaping the boulevards downtown. They are planning a work day on Sunday, July 14 beginning at noon. You're encouraged to bring gloves, shovels, and a

positive attitude ready to work! Beverages and snacks will be provided throughout the afternoon.
RSVP by JULY 8th by calling Kim Sporleder at 515-733-0739

Dates to mark on your calendars:

September 6 and 7 – All Church Camp Adventure at Little Wall Lake – reservations have been made. Bring your camper or tent and plan to join in the fun!

Sunday, October 13 – 2019 Charge Conference – time has not yet been set, but it looks like it will be just our church (not a group meeting like last year in Ames). Perhaps we can make an event (include an all-church potluck) of it...

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

Betty Hults and family on the passing of her mother; Caleb Michel; Rich Peterson (Erma's brother); Karen Keech (Kent's wife); Judy Skaare (Jonathan's sister); George Sellers; Emmerson Kahl; Emily Meier; Lois Johnson; Garry Gerjets; Jackie Royer; Cooper Leeman; Taylor family

News You Can Use

Sunday, July 7

8:45 AM *Java with Jesus*

9:15 AM Worship – Communion

Tori Fournier & Haley Chamberlain, special music

Monday, July 8-Sunday, July 14 – Jonathan on vacation

Wednesday, July 10

8:30 AM UMW Breakfast meeting

Sunday, July 14

8:00 AM Trustees

8:45 AM *Java with Jesus*

9:15 AM Worship – Nate has message, Judy Andrew sings

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**