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The Grace Church Visitor

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What's Inside

Page 2 – April Birthdays, April Lectionary, From Our Pastor

Page 3 – G.R.A.C.E. Teams, Baptism, Building Usage, Maundy Thursday, April Volunteers, A Butterfly Poem

Page 4 – Prayers, Gifts, Presence, Witness, Service, Easter, Thank you, Spring Clean Up, Palm Sunday

Page 5 – Mission Brunch, Quarter Drive, Easter Lilies, **Confirmation Paintings**

Page 6 – UWF News, A Night of The Word in Worship

Page 7 – Summer Camps, Out of the Darkness, Youth Update

Page 8 – Apportionments, Inclement Weather, Letter of Thanks, Youth Job Fair

Page 9 - Council Committee Meeting Minutes

Page 10 – April Calendar of Events

April Birthdays

Angie Schnurstein	4/1
Ellie Rasmusson	4/2
Louis Reeder	4/9
Kylie Spencer	4/9
Eric Hart	4/10
Tori Fournier	4/12
George Janvrin Jr.	4/20
Charlie Fournier	4/21
Mike Jensen	4/21
Dee McNamara	4/23
Sarah Hults	4/25
Colton Gregori	4/27

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



April Lectionary

April 2

Matthew 21:1-11, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Isaiah 50:4-9a

April 9

Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Colossians 3:1-4, John 20:1-18

April 16

Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 16, 1Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31

April 23

Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35

April 30

Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10

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

Beloveds.

I remember attending confirmation classes in the Spring of 1970 (I think)—just a couple of years after we, Evangelical United Brethren, joined with the Methodists in response to our calling to form the United Methodist Church. Among the things I learned and remember today (as I tell my classes at Grace) is that grace is the free and unmerited love of God. I am sure Dad taught us many other things, too!

Confirmation is *relatively* new in the United Methodist tradition. That is, the word did not appear in our official documents until well after World War II. That is not to say local churches did not observe the practice before then—just look at the pictures of the classes in our fellowship hall! My first two churches in the Ozarks, however, were still not "doing" confirmation in the mid-1980s. I would guess it was because they were suspicious of anything that suggested faith might be "taught and not caught," as I think Dad said once. My experience also tells me that such things depend on whether one's neighbors are Southern Baptist or Lutheran.

We are planning to confirm several young people this month. I have appreciated everyone's patience as we've had to struggle with my neck surgery and the church calendar. Ask the UMC.org says, "United Methodists use the term 'confirmation' to mark the first time a baptized Christian publicly 'confirms' their intention to live the vows of the baptismal and membership covenant and so becomes a professing member of the local congregation and The United Methodist Church." Confirmation is one step along the life-long journey of faith that begins with baptism (at any age) and includes many moments of renewal and confirmation along the way. The newly confirmed Christians join the United Methodist Church and Grace United Methodist Church as full members.

Please continue to support these young people and their families (as we vowed to do at their baptisms) as they make a profession of faith and step out into their life of love and service in the name of Jesus Christ.

Your Servant for Christ's Sake.

Jonathan

Don't Stop Me If You've Hear This One Dept.

The cathedral of Rouen, France, includes the *Tour de Beurre* (Tower of Butter) erected between 1485 and 1507 from funds obtained by granting indulgences (permissions) on the eating of butter and cream during Lent. Butter, cream, and the like are supposed to be surrendered after *Mardi Gras* (fat Tuesday).

Mark & Cathy Hermanson—chair

David & Becky Barclay, Rod & Sue Bohner, David & Marlene Doolittle, Doug Doolittle, Terry Gustason, Rhonda Hampton, Jim & Shelley Hassebrock, Matt & Amber Hoskins, Isabel Hoskins, Jenna Hoskins, George Janvrin, Jane Jackson/Fred Larson, David & Mary Loupee, Sharene Lykins, Norm & Cindy Spurlock, Tim & Kim Tryon, Rick & Grace Welke, Lon & Beckey Witthuhn, Jori Witthuhn

Baptism

James Jerome Doolittle was baptized on March 12. James is the son of Frank and Julie Doolittle and the grandson of Doug Doolittle.

Building Usage

Beginning April 23, Judge Story Theatrical Troupe will be using the fellowship hall for their rehearsals for 3 weeks. If you notice a large number of people coming and going from the church during that time, it is them and nothing to be concerned about.

Maundy Thursday



Pastor Jonathan will lead us in our Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 6th. The Chancel Choir will sing and

Communion will be served as we honor Christ's last supper with his disciples.



March Volunteers

Sunday, April 2

Liturgist: Lauren Crawford

Ushers: Dave and Becky Barclay,

Rick and Grace Welke

Thursday, April 6

Liturgist: Claudia Pauk
Ushers: Dave Doolittle

Sunday, April 9

Liturgist: Kurt Carlson

Ushers: Jim and Shelley Hassebrock,

Doug Doolittle, Mark Hermanson

Sunday, April 16

Liturgist: Becky Barclay

Ushers: Jim and Shelley Hassebrock,

Dave and Mary Loupee

Brunch:

Gallon milk Rhonda Hampton
Gallon orange juice Becky Barclay
Clean Up Dave Doolittle

Sunday, April 23

Liturgist: Confirmand

Ushers: Tim and Kim Tryon, Cindy Spurlock

Sunday, April 30

Liturgist: Gail Remis

Ushers: Dave and Mary Loupee,

Cindy Spurlock, Doug Doolittle

A Butterfly Poem



The beautiful butterfly, once only a lonely caterpillar crawling on the ground, emerges from its dark cocoon covered in colors and ready to fly.

Our beautiful Savior,
once a true man walking the earth,
emerges from his garden tomb
bright with new life and ready to ascend
to his Father in heaven.

We, as Easter people, once lowly creatures who kept close to the earth, now are reborn by the resurrection of Christ, ready to soar to new heights of faith, new vistas of hope, and new mansions above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Our Prayers

Judy Andrew—recovering from fall and surgery; Dorothy Carbaugh—in Hospital; Sara Dappen; Rhonda Hampton's granddaughter Becca Lierman; Loretta Parker; Erma Schaeffer; The Taylors

Our Gifts

Offering March 5—March 26: \$10.824.00

Our Presence

Attendance March 5—March 26 Worship: 312 Total/78 Avg. Sunday School (Mar 5—Mar 26): 76 Total/25 Avg.(3 weeks)

Our Witness

We appreciate our March liturgists:
Kurt Carlson, George Janvrin,
Claudia Pauk, Dave Doolittle
Thank you to everyone who served as
liturgist during the Wednesday
evening devotions during Lent:
Terry Gustason, Claudia Pauk,
Cathy Hermanson, Gloria
Sampson

Our Service

Thank you to all of the people who so faithfully serve on committees and in other special ways here at Grace. Wonderful things continue to happen here because of people who take a look around and make the time to do special smaller projects for the benefit of us all.











Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday is Sunday, April 9th. Touch of Grace Bells will be playing for us that Sunday as we celebrate Christ's Resurrection. Our service will be at the normal time of 9:15am

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Wednesday night devotions during Lent. We had, on average, 16 people attend each week. It is our hope it was a time of peaceful reflection for you. Thank you to all the pastors who came to give us a brief message. We enjoyed hearing what you had to say. Pastors who spoke were: Rev. Joy Edeker, Rev. Tim Malek, Rev. Maureen Howard, Rev. Lisa Robison and Rev. Jonathan Cooney.

Spring Clean Up

The Trustees have set our All-Church Spring Clean-Up Days for Friday, April 14th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 15th from 9:00 a.m. – noon. A list of tasks to be completed will be placed on a table in the narthex. Please choose the task you intend to complete and bring the tools you'll need to accomplish the job. If the weather doesn't cooperate our back up days will be April 28 and 29th.

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is April 2nd. Our young children will enter the sanctuary joyfully waving palm branches as the congregation sings. *Praise Him, Praise Him* in honor of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We will also celebrate Ellie Rasmussen as she is baptized that morning.



Our March Sunday Brunch was enjoyed by a great group of people. Sharla Mander, Tori Fournier, Peyton Rickerl and Savannah Jensen and G.R.A.C.E. Team E members hosted this month. \$511 was raised for the Heifer Project! Please join us **April 16th** for our next mission brunch that will benefit Mobility Worldwide. They will be serving baked french toast. Please note that the date was changed from the usual 4th Sunday.

Quarter Drive

On Sundays when there is brunch after the service, the children will be collecting quarters during the service to raise money for the mission the brunch is supporting. Have your quarters ready on April 16th!



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 (April 3-7) or on Easter morning (April 9). If you want to pay tribute to loved ones either as a memorial for those who have passed or in hon-

or for those who are still with us, simply fill out this form and drop it in the offering plate or email the office at office@grace-umc.com by April 4.

My name

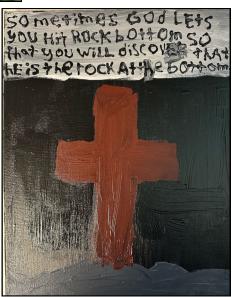
of plants____

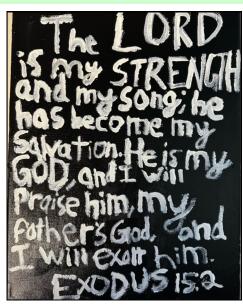
In honor/memory of

Confirmation Paintings

Confirmation students painted paintings representing their faith and commitment to Jesus. These paintings will join other confirmands paintings in the downstairs hallway for everyone to enjoy.







On Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 19 members of Grace United Women in Faith met in the Fellowship Hall of Grace Church. Patsy opened with a verse from 2nd Corinthians, Chapter 1, verse 9 followed by prayer. We then sang Bind Us Together followed by reciting the Purpose.

Gloria presented the Mission Moment which was the Call of Prayer and Self Denial. She read from Luke 4 verses 18-19. She spoke of racial injustice and ask the question "what would Jesus do". She also talked of the School Closet at Roland-Story which provides personal products and clothing for students in need. On motion by Terry, second Gini we will provide supplies that include personal products, socks, underwear, etc. On motion by Claudia, second by Gloria we will give \$200 as a unit and individuals may also contribute. Both motions carried. Sharla will purchase products and Gloria will deliver to school.

Treasurers Report was given by Sharla. We have a balance of 924.44.

The minutes were read and approved.

Jonathan and Claudia had attended the Bishop's Installation.

Kalen Peterson, RSVP, had sent a thank you for our help with luncheons. Jan will help March 15 and Tep on March 29. Anyone wishing to help with other luncheons may contact Kalen. We received a thank you from Sara Dappen for the Valentine she received.

Patsy had several packets of information on Mission U, Racial Justice on Zoom March 18 and other subjects. Claudia reminded us of the Palm Sunday Brunch to be held at Bethany Life.

In honor of International Day of Women's Rights Lena passed out bells for us to ring. We also expressed a thank you to Erma for the Kids Bells she organizes.

Patsy read and then passed out a "food for thought" for Lent that she had found among her grandfather's belongings.

Patsy had placed a shamrock under one of our chairs and with the help of Lena, Jeri's chair was the winner and once again I lost out to CHOCOLATE!!!

Shannon Koppes, church administrative assistant, was a guest. She introduced herself and told us about her family. We are appreciative of the help Shannon provides us.

Jan then presented the program. Jan's church in Cedar Rapids has helped in many projects and last year Jan told us how they helped residents after the 2008 flood. That program closed in 2010 and they thought they were going to be just a normal church when they were approached in 2011 by Family Promise to help with the homeless population in the Cedar Rapids area. This is an organization that serves in 43 states to provide safe places for homeless families. Thirteen churches took part and Jan told how the church served the families with meals, activities and a safe night time place to stay. She told us the stories of individuals she had met and gotten to know during the time her church served in this project.

Jeri was our hostess. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 12. Mission Moment: Terry; Program: Raejean; and Hostesses: Gloria and Mindy

Submitted by Terry Gustason





Registration is now available <u>online</u> for the 2023 lowa United Methodist Camps at Wesley Woods and Lake Okoboji.

Please check out: www.iaumc.org/camps.

Remember, you need to give Gini Michel a copy of your registration in order to be reimbursed. Grace pays:

- * Methodist Camp for church members / 100%
- * Another faith-based church camp / 75%
- * Non Methodist persons attending a Methodist Camp with church member / 50%
- * Non faith-based camp / 50%

Out of the Darkness Walk



We're excited to share Student Counseling Services at Iowa State University will once again be partnering with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's (AFSP) Out of the Darkness

Walk.

These walks raise awareness and muchneeded funds for those affected by suicide and those that support them. They strongly send the message that suicide is preventable and that no one is alone!

Mark your calendar with the following details:

Walk Date: Saturday, April 29, 2023

Walk Location: South Campanile Lawn, Central Campus (Rain Location: State Gym, 2642 Union Drive)

Opening Ceremony: 10:00 am

It would be great to have your organization join us as a community partner in raising awareness about mental health by helping to bring the community together!



having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

- Colossians 2:12 NIV

Hello all,

I would like to start by saying Compass will start meeting again after Easter. We are going to start meeting at 5 for the remainder of the year running until 6:30. The meal will still be served at 6 and we are now ending Compass with a meal as opposed to starting with the meal. This is because if a kid needs to leave, they can leave knowing they are not going to miss anything. We are also pushing the time up in case the kids have any homework. A few personal reasons went into this decision. I have a lot of homework now that I am back in school, so this gives me a chance to get it done on Wednesday if I need to. I also would like to attend Kairos which is a college ministry. This would fill up my cup so I can continue pouring into theirs.

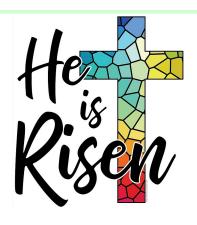
Homework hangout is still going through Lent and will continue after lent is done. We meet at St. Petri for this from 3:00-5:30ish until lent is done and then we will meet from 4:00-5:00 when lent is done. Snacks are provided and it's just a time to come work on homework and hangout with your friends.

With the Easter sunrise coming up, you should expect to see a lot of the Bergen/St. Petri confirmation students helping out with that. That will take place on Easter Sunday at 7:30 AM.

I also took a job again this summer at Riverside so I will be absent most of the summer but will still attend church on Sunday mornings. If your kids are wanting to see me, they I will be sending out which church I will be attending on Sundays if they would like to join me. I will also do a few events on Saturday nights this summer so you can look forward to that!

Thank you all for your continuous support of this ministry.

Joel



Apportionments

Apportionments are the fundamental method the church uses to fund mission and ministry beyond the local community. The United Methodist denomination, from the beginning, has been a church that believes congregations are to fund not only their local communities but beyond to the world parish. For the followers of John Wesley, ministry has never been about one or the other—always both.

In the Iowa Conference, our shared giving includes three 1) General Church Apportionments = 21%; which supports the following: Episcopal Fund, Ministerial Education Fund, General Church Administration. North Central Jurisdictional Administration. Interdenominational Coop Fund, World Service Fund, Black College Fund, and Africa University. 2) Conference Ministries = 62%; which supports the following: Board of Ordained Ministries, Board of Trustees, Commission on Equitable Compensation, District/Cabinet Funds, Clergy Support Ministries, Episcopal Funds, Pastoral Care and Counseling, Conference Administrative Committees, Council on Finance and Administration, Connectional Ministries, Council Commission on Archives and History, and Communications. 3) Conference Missions = 17%; which supports the following: Board of Camp, Conference and Retreat Ministries, Board of Church and Society, Board of Discipleship, Board of Global Ministries, Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries, Board of Laity, Commission on Religion and Race, District Councils on Ministries, and Matthew 25 Fund.

Inclement Weather

When there is a weather related early out at Roland-Story schools, all church activities for that day will also be cancelled. As a general rule, worship services will NOT be cancelled in the case of inclement weather. But, if we feel it is best to cancel services, tune into KCCI TV, check your email or consult Facebook as we will post the information there by as early as 7:00 on the Sunday morning in question. You are urged to use your own good judgment as to if you are able to attend the service when the weather is nasty.

Letter of Thanks

Dear Pastor Jonathan and members of the Story City Grace United Methodist Church,

I would like to express my deep gratitude and thanks to you and your church for your faithful 100% commitment to the shared giving (apportionment). Your sacrificial giving has made a huge difference not only in our own local communities but also around the world. As you know, we are the globally connected church. Our ministry has been impacting on other peoples and communities around the globe. More than ever, we will continue to go out to the world and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

So, I would like to encourage you to continue to live out our connectional spirit for the sake of the mission of the church. "We are all in this together." A healthy leader bears fruit of a healthy congregation. A healthy congregation will bear fruit of healthy disciples and leaders for the world. When we are all in this together, we will be a healthy conference. I look forward to working with you for our greater mission of the United Methodist Church.

Sincerely, Rev. Ron Carlson Riverview Park District Superintendent

Youth Job Fair

Greetings!

Summer is coming, and with that comes the need to Get a Job! We invite all 14-24-year-olds looking for summer jobs, internships, or volunteer opportunities to attend **#GETAJOB**, the Story County Youth Summer Job Fair. The fair will be held **Saturday**, **April 15**, **2023**, from **11:00** am to **2:00** pm at **North Grand Mall** in Ames. This is an excellent opportunity for Story County youth to connect with multiple Story County businesses and organizations looking to hire for the summer and beyond!

In preparation for the job fair, we will be hosting drop-in sessions at the Ames Public Library to help with applications and resumes!

For more information or any questions, contact Mandy Rangel-Schrank at arangel@yss.org.

Thank you!

Grace UMC Council

Unofficial Minutes March 27, 2023 meeting

Present: Gloria Sampson (Chair, Missions), Becky Barclay (Finance), Louis Reeder (Trustee), Pastor Jonathan, Claudia Pauk (Lay Leader), Cheryl Semler (Worship), Gini Michel (Education), Patsy Jensen (UWF), Krystal Ness (SPRC), Cathy Hermanson (rec. secretary)

Jonathan offered prayer and Gloria opened the meeting.

Cheryl/Gini moved the February minutes be accepted. Motion carried.

Finance: Becky reported the church remains in good financial condition. Paying two months of apportionments in March (we've paid 6 months of 2023 at this point). Giving was down a bit in March, hoping to get back on track with 5 Sundays in April..

Pastor's Report: Pastor Jonathan shared:

End of year reports have been submitted – thanks to Lorijo, Becky, and Candi for completing their reports Wednesday night Devotional services have gone well, regular attenders

On March 30 he will attend an Orders (Clergy) Retreat – will hear about trauma survivors & how to help

HOLY WEEK – On April 6 he (with the Kiwanis) will participate in Team Maze with RS students in the AM – Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 in the evening.

April 8 will participate (along with the Kiwanis) in the community Bunny Trail Easter Egg Hunt

Summer – may go to Colorado to help confirm a great-niece.

Health – receiving attention on eye and tooth concerns

Committee Reports: Ministry Areas

Worship: Cheryl reported church pianos be shifted around this summer when a new one is due to be donated. It will go into the choir room – the choir room piano will be given away. The electronic piano stored in the choir room will move to the chapel and the existing chapel piano will be given away. Cathy moved the plan be adopted with a second from Becky – motion carried. Cheryl reported Kurt Carlson has reserved space at Little Wall Lake for the July 9th weekend for the 6th annual All Church Camp-out. We have two weddings set for this summer at Grace and a baptism set for April 2nd.

Christian Education: Gini reported plans are set for Palm Sunday. April 16th after worship Confirmation pictures will be taken. Confirmation is set for April 23 with a reception following the service. Four students will be confirmed –Owen Hubert, Emma Larson, Isabelle Ness, Riker Warwick. There will be no Confirmation class for 2023-24 school year. We have one student graduating on May 21st and will have a reception following the service that day.

Missions: Gloria reported \$403.31 was given for the in-church *Caring Fund/Good Neighbor* account to be used as needed. \$296.50.was given to the *Middle School RS Food Pantry*. Next Grace-led turn at the *Loaves & Fishes Pantry* on April 22nd. Claudia has retired from leading our *Meals on Wheels* program (she has held the responsibility since 2012). She has developed materials to help the next person hit the ground running. UWF took the money given for *RSHS Clothing Closet* (around \$400) and bought requested needed supplies to give to the Closet. A grant application for Loaves & Fishes has been submitted to Ingathering program. Work has begun on initiating hands-on missional opportunities for interested members. *Prayer Shawls Ministry* – three shawls and a baptism shawl were shared. \$511 was raised at the March Mission Brunch for *Heifer Project*. That donation will be doubled through a special Heifer program offered in the month of March.

UFW - Patsy reported Grace Church has again responded by providing volunteers to help serve at the Senior Citizens Wednesday meal.

Committee Reports: Administrative Area

SPRC: Krystal reported a new form to replace "Another Set of Eyes" will be the project at the April SPRC meeting.

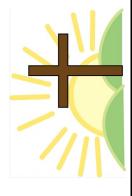
Trustees: Louis reported further investigation into the office water problem has revealed the grade outside the Pastor's office may need to be changed before a landscaping project is begun. Also extensions to the down spouts are being tried to help alleviate the problem. The carpet just outside the choir loft has been stretched. A bid for the lighting project has been received which will allow for bulbs to be changed to LED and some rewiring to be completed on the rheostats in the lighting closet. Enlisting the help of Loyal Winborn, work continues for updating the sound/monitors for the sanctuary. One bid has been received (awaiting a 2nd bid) for updating the back parking lot.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Discussed ways to address some socialization needs uncovered by the CAT survey. Church Committees will look for opportunities within their purviews for encouraging more missional opportunities. A few ideas we will explore at our next meeting include: Group of Eight dinners – a yearlong program that folks sign up to participate in. Cribbage Nights (afternoons), Painting and other classes, Summer services followed by a grilled hamburger potluck meal.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting will be Monday, April 24 at 6:30

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Hermanson, Rec Sec.



April 2023



Sat	1	∞	15 Days	9-12 Loaves and Fishes	29 Church Clean Up	
Fri		7 Good Friday	14 Church Clean Up	21 5-8 Claybusters	28 Back up days for	
Thu		6 Maundy Thursday 7:00 Worship Communion	13	20	27 6:30 JSTT	
Wed		S No Choir Practice 3:00 Homework Hangout—St. Petri 8:00 Bells	12 1:30 UWF 4:00 Homework Hangout—St. Petri 5:00 Children's Bells 5:00 Compass 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	4:00 Homework Hangout—St. Petri 5:00 Compass 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	26 4:00 Homework Hangout—St. Petri 5:00 Children's Bells 5:00 Compass 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	
Tue		4		18	25 6:30 JSTT	
Mon		т	10 5:30 Worship 6:30 SPRC	17	24 5:45 Finance 6:30 Council 6:30 JSTT	
Sun		Palm Sunday 9:15 Worship Baptism 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School	Easter Sunday 9:15 Worship 10:15 Fellowship NO Sunday School	16 9:15 Worship 10:15 Brunch 10:30 Sunday School	23 9:15 Worship Confirmation 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 1:00 JSTT	30 9:15 Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 1:00 JSTT