



GRACE UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
PO BOX 67
624 ELM AVE.
STORY CITY, IA 50248

Contact Information

**Pastor Jonathan
Cooney Ph.D.**
jonathan.cooney07
@gmail.com

Shannon Koppes
Administrative
Assistant
office@grace-umc.com
515-733-4712

www.grace-umc.com

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Office Hours:
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8:30 AM — 12:30 PM

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Grace UMC;
624 Elm Ave.
P.O. Box 67
OR call us
(515) 733-4712
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office@grace-umc.com

The Grace Church Visitor

VOL. 74 NO. 12

JUNE 2023



TASTE AND
SEE THAT
THE LORD
IS good.



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Grace = God's Riches At Christ's Expense

June Birthdays

Matt Hoskins	6/12
Linnwood Crawford	6/14
Luccas Hart	6/15
Jane Jackson	6/16
Mark Flaspohler	6/17
Priscilla Johnson	6/21
Caleb Michel	6/21
Elizabeth Staten	6/22
Mark Schnurstein	6/24
Rod Bohner	6/25
Treyton Witthuhn	6/26
Isabelle Ness	6/28

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



June Lectionary

June 4

Genesis 1:1-2, 4a, Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20

June 11

Genesis 12:1-9, Psalm 33:1-12
Romans 4:13-25, Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

June 18

Genesis 18:1-15, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Romans 5:1-8, Matthew 9:35-10:8

June 25

Genesis 21:8-21, Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
Romans 6:1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39

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,

The Iowa Annual Conference meets over the first weekend in June every year (a perennial problem for the pastor of Grace United Methodist as it nearly always conflicts with Scandinavian Days). For most of that weekend your lay member to conference, Claudia Pauk, and I will be attending the conference in Des Moines. "Holy conferencing" is something Methodists have done since John Wesley and his colleagues began riding circuits in England in the mid-eighteenth century. The connection between conferences, churches, and pastors is truly unique to United Methodists and other churches descended from the Wesleyan movement.

By the time you read this we will have held a special called conference via Zoom on May 23. This special meeting will address churches in our conference which wish to "disaffiliate" from the denomination. Another special conference will be held later in the year to accommodate churches meeting an end-of-the-year deadline for disaffiliation. The bishop has called these special sessions so the conference can focus on this business without distraction and that we can complete other necessary work during our regularly scheduled meeting time. Churches wishing to leave must complete certain financial and legal obligations before the conference can vote to let them go, taking their property and assets with them.

I think many of you have heard or read about this disaffiliation process this year. I can hardly do it justice in just a few paragraphs, but in a nutshell the process was established so that congregations who disagree with the *presumed* direction of the United Methodist Church regarding LGBTQA+ issues may leave and keep their property and assets (ordinarily the church holds these in trust for the conference). The current *Book of Discipline* remains largely traditional in its wording, but I believe many see disaffiliation as an opportunity to leave a denomination that they think has become too progressive or even lax with regard to doctrine, theology and practice over the years.

While I don't believe there is sufficient support for any action on the part of Grace United Methodist Church at this time, I am open to dialogue and discussion. Many of us want to wait to see what *actually* happens during General Conference in 2024. There will probably still be options for the local church at that time. Until then, and even after then, it is imperative that we focus on the work of Jesus Christ in our community.

Your servant for Christ's sake,
Jonathan

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

There was a fellow who said he'd been preaching in Kentucky. When asked the exact location, he said it was near Hazard, Kentucky--so far back in the Appalachian woods that even the Episcopalians handled snakes. (No offense--just a little ecumenical humor.)

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

Gini Michel—chair

Judy Andrew, Hubert & Raejean Bickelhaupt, Alex & Claire Flaspohler, Stephanie Fournier, Eric & Shelley Hart, Jarod Hart, Luccas Hart, Kevin & Candi Holm, Ray & Betty Hults, Lorijo Lounsberry, Mike & Christine Marti, Janet Mason, Caleb Michel, Jacob & Krystle Ness, Mark & Angie Schnurstein, Emma Schnurstein, Mason Schnurstein, Chuck & Cheryl Semler, Virginia Swensen

New Members



Congratulations to Marvin and Pauline Kokemiller. They became members of our congregation on May 14, 2023. We are very happy to have them as part of our congregation.

Received from Ingathering

Every fall our church joins with United Methodists across Iowa to collect offerings and supplies for the Ingathering including student, personal dignity, feminine hygiene, and layette "kits." A part of the Ingathering is the Hunger Grant Task Force. This year the task force received eighty applications from ministries combatting hunger throughout our state. For the last several years Grace United Methodist Church has applied for and received grant money on behalf of the Loaves and Fishes food pantry in Story City. This year we were awarded \$250. We are pleased to bring some of these resources back into our community.

June Volunteers

Sunday, June 4

Liturgist: Dave Doolittle
Ushers: Kevin and Candi Holm

Sunday, June 11

Liturgist: Del Johnston
Ushers: Cheryl Semler, Caleb and Gini Michel

Sunday, June 18

Liturgist: Claudia Pauk
Ushers: Ray and Betty Hults

Sunday, June 25

Liturgist: Gloria Sampson
Ushers: Cheryl Semler, Caleb and Gini Michel

Bulletin and Newsletter Folder:

June 2: Gini Michel
June 9: Gini Michel
June 16: Cheryl Semler
June 23: Gini Michel
June 29: Gini Michel

Graduates



We had 3 members of our congregation graduate this year. We congratulate them on a job well done and pray for them as they begin the next stage of their lives.



- * Emma Schnurstein graduated from Roland-Story High School. Emma will attend the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD. She is interested in double majoring in Marketing and Entrepreneurship, with a minor in Graphic Design. She plans to audition for the university Chamber Singers.
- * Eric Dowe attended Wartburg College where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Actuary Science & Business. This fall he will attend University of Iowa where he will be in the Master's Program for Business Analytics & Finance.
- * Lauren Crawford graduated with a PhD in Immunobiology from Iowa State University. She will be starting as a scientist in the bacterial immunology group with BI (Boehringer Ingelheim) Veterinary Health in Ames in June.



Our Prayers

Dorothy Carbaugh; Kurt Carlson—friend Gary's cancer has returned; Donyel Caruth—sister Tawnya has cancer; Sara Dappen; Jan Feil's mother—Editha Adrian; Loretta Parker; The Taylors; Grace Welke—Friend Jeff is having a bone marrow transplant

Our Gifts

Offering May 7—May 28:
\$10,701.75

Our Presence

Attendance May 7—May 28
Worship: 348 Total/87 Avg.

Our Witness

We appreciate our May liturgists: Kurt Carlson, Dave Doolittle, Cathy Hermanson and Gail Remis

Our Service

Thank you to Mike, Patsy, Craig and Savannah Jensen for a wonderful year of coffee fellowship hosting. We appreciate all you do each Sunday!

Thank you to Doug and Dave Doolittle for setting up the tables and getting the bells out for bell choir rehearsal each week. Your hard work is noticed and appreciated.

Thank You!

Dear Grace Church Family,

I'd like to thank you all for the support I've gotten in confirmation. Also, growing up in this church has been amazing because of the positive community. I am very excited to be an official member of the UMC.

Thank you all so much.

Sincerely, Owen Hubert

Yarn

We have received generous donations of beautiful, colorful yarn. You are welcome to take as many skeins as you need. Prayer shawls, lap robes, afghans are always appreciated for those needing to know someone cares. The yarn is kept in the first south room in the fellowship hall.

Mowing



It is that time of year again. We need people to sign up to help mow the church lawn. Please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/2023-mowing> or there will be a sign up available in the narthex.

Wedding Celebration



On May 28 we had a Coffee Fellowship Celebration to celebrate the upcoming wedding of Amy Harlan and Alex Franco. They will be getting married here at Grace Church on July 8. If you were not able to attend, you can still send a greeting to the happy couple.

Thank you!

Thank you for the birthday card you sent me. It was such a pleasant surprise to receive it. I'm so glad you take the time to send birthday cards to people. It is a wonderful thing that you do.

Nancy Uran



Memorial Gifts

On Sunday, May 28, we remembered those who have passed away in our Grace Church family. We honored these Grace Church members and the memorial gifts given to this church in their memory this year:

Ken Gookin
Chuck Matheason
Linda Poore
Jim Dale
Geneva Chelsvig
Kermit Miskell
Harvey "Jim" Wirth

Thank you!

Thank you to our choir directors—Rhonda Hampton, Erma Schaeffer, Judy Brekke, Claudia Pauk, Chrissy Semler-Blue and Beckey Whitthun. We love to hear the lovely music from the choirs each Sunday and we couldn't do it without you.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who helped with Sunday school this year. Your work is very much appreciated.

Superintendent: Gini Michel

Asst. Superintendent: Raejean Bickelhaupt

Teachers: Beckey Witthuhn, Amy Harlan-Franco, Chrissy Blue, Craig Jensen, Val Gregori, Shelley Hart, Rhonda Hampton, Pastor Jonathan Cooney

Music & Christmas Program: Erma Schaeffer, Claudia Pauk, Cathy Hermanson

Summer Camps

Registration is now available online for the 2023 Iowa 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%

Summer Music

Thank you to all who have agreed to provide special music this summer. As you can see, we still have plenty of opportunities available! Please join us at our weekly worship services for a summer full of musical praise.

Claudia Pauk and Cathy Hermanson

June 4 –

June 11 – George Janvrin

June 18 – Steve and Tressa Reisetter

June 25 – Gail Remis

July 2 – Tanner Blue

July 9 – Jonathan Cooney

July 16 – Jeri Bauman & Claudia Pauk

July 23 – Chase Blagg

July 30 – Josiah Soderstrum

Aug 6 – Dee McNamara

Aug 13 –

Aug 20 – The Brethren

Aug 27 –

Sept 3 –

All Church Camp Out

We are having our annual church camp out at Little Wall Lake July 6-10. In coordination with that, we will hold our worship service on July 9 at Little Wall Lake under the pavilion at the park. There are plenty of picnic tables but you're welcome to bring lawn chairs and blankets and come enjoy a fun worship service. If you have any questions about the campout, contact Kurt Carlson.

Thank you!

To the members of the Lambs of Grace Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Ron and I want to thank you for the prayer shawl he received this weekend. It has a place on his favorite recliner for his shoulders or lap whenever he needs it. Please know that the prayers and comfort for healing you extend to others is very much appreciated. It means so much to both of us. Ron's health journey has been long and difficult, but the support we continue to receive from others keeps us moving forward. Grace Church will always have a special place in my heart. I have many special memories of my early years growing up there. God bless you for the comfort and hope you give others! Blessings, Joni Gustason Livermore

On Wednesday May 10, 2023 15 members of United Women of Faith met at 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall of Grace Church. Patsy opened the meeting with a verse from Isaiah 49, verse 6, followed by a prayer and the reading of the Purpose. We then sang "Go Tell It On The Mountain".

Jan was to present the Mission Moment but was with her mother who is now in Hospice care at Bethany Life. We were asked to remember the family in our thoughts and prayers. Patsy gave the Mission Moment reading several Bible verses, a quote by Pope John Paul the 2nd and a reading from the Kitchen Klatter magazine.

Treasurer's Report was given by Sharla. We have a balance of \$884.59

The minutes were read and approved. A very thoughtful thank you was read from Ruby Matheason.

Old Business: Patsy had copies of information and registration for the upcoming Mission U.

New Business: Claudia reminded us of Potato Cake Making Day (we hope this is just a morning activity and not all day) on Wednesday, May 31 at 9:00 AM. She had sign up sheets for the various duties. Last year we made five batches of potatoes and from that we made 396 potato cakes (33 dozen). We assembled 66 bags with 6 potato cakes to a bag. Bags will be priced at \$4.00 a bag which is same price as last year. We also reviewed and revised the bake sale list. Claudia also had a sign-up sheet for pies for the sandwich line/pie/ice cream social that will be held from 11:00 until 2:00 (or we are sold out). The price for the sandwich line will remain the same as last year. Sandwich \$6.00 (includes pickle and chips), pie \$3.00, .50 for drink and .50 for ice cream for a total of \$10.00. Gloria is in charge of the work list and it will be posted in the kitchen.

Nancy then presented the program on Bold Women in Faith. The women included Moses' mother, the prophet Deborah, Rahab, Hannah and Esther. She also talked of Frances Jane Crosby a blind mission worker, poet, lyricist and composer. Many of the hymns she wrote are included in our hymnals.

We are busy in June with Scandi Days and do not hold a regular meeting. A breakfast on July 12 at 8:30 will be held in Fellowship Hall hosted by the officers. Raejean has a speaker coming as her Mission Moment. On motion by Gloria, seconded and passed we voted to give the speaker \$100 for her program and \$50 for gas money. No meeting in August and we will meet again on Wednesday, September 13, with Mission Moment: Raejean, Program: Terry and Hostess: Nancy. Submitted by Terry Gustason



Thank you!

Dear Grace United Methodist Church family,

Thank you very much for allowing us to have Emma's graduation reception here at our church. It was a perfect location. We appreciate everyone's help in making sure we had everything we needed and to Pastor Jonathan for unlocking and locking the church up many times for us. Thank you to everyone for your never-ending love, support, and encouragement in everything. We appreciate you all!

The Schnurstein's
Mark, Angie, Emma and Mason

Scandinavian Days Bake Sale



Scandinavian Days Bake Sale will be held Friday, June 2, 2023 from 11:00-2:00 (or until we sell out). Once again we are asking for your help. Please bring your wrapped and priced baked good to the church Chapel any time after 7:00am on Friday. The bake sale is held in the Chapel. Thank you! We appreciate all items and look forward to a nice variety.

Here is the suggested price list to guide you in marking your items.

Angel Food Cake	\$6.00 (full sized)
Berliner Kranse	\$3.00/doz. or 25¢ each
Specialty Bread	\$5.00 (regular size loaf)
Bars	\$5.00/doz., or \$3.00/half doz.
Cookies	\$4.50/doz.
Cupcakes	\$4.00/half doz. or 75¢ each
Dinner Rolls	\$5.00/doz.
Jam/Jelly	\$3.50/1/2 pint
Honey.....	\$5.00 each
Kavring	\$1.50/doz.
Kringla	\$5.00/doz.
Krumkaka	\$3.50/half doz.
Lefsa	\$2.00 each
Muffins	\$3.50/half doz.
Potato Cakes	\$4.00/half doz.
Rosettes	\$3.50/half doz.
Spritz	\$3.50/doz. small
.....	\$4.50/doz. large
Sweet Bread	\$1.50 each for small
.....	\$4.00 each for large
Sweet Rolls	\$1.00 each for large
.....	\$1.50 for x-large
Tea Ring	\$9.00 to \$11.00 depending on size

Scandinavian Days Luncheon

SCANDINAVIAN DAYS



PULLED PORK SANDWICHES HOMEMADE PIES BAKE SALE

Friday--June 2, 2023
11:00--2:00 p.m. (until sold out)
Grace United Methodist Church

624 Elm Avenue – Story City

Barbeque Sandwiches (chips & pickle)

Homemade Pie/Ice Cream

Coffee/Lemonade

Homemade Baked Goods

CARRY OUTS AVAILABLE

515-733-4712

Wesley Woods

Summer Kickoff!
Saturday, June 3 (1:00 PM—5:00 PM)
Wesley Woods Camp and Retreat Center

Activities for the family, kids and adults
Slip-n-slide—Crafts—Horse Activities—Archery—
Yard Games—Face Painting—Climbing Wall—
Fishing—Wagon Tours & More!

Come and see what we have to offer for the summer camp. Then go online and register for an exciting week at camp!

*You're one
in a
Melon!*



In April several of our members served at Loaves and Fishes. Thank you for your willingness to serve.



Bethany Life Annual Meeting

The 2022 Annual Meeting of Bethany Life was held in the Bethany Manor Chapel on May 23rd.

Under the leadership of Kim Schilling, CEO, the dedicated staff, the Foundation Board of Directors and the Bethany Life Governance Board of Directors, Bethany Life is thriving.

Many changes and challenges were faced in 2022. A decision was thoughtfully made to reduce household admissions rather than go outside to hire temporary staffing. The time was spent recruiting permanent talented and compassionate staff. There now are over 300 employees. The administration of Bethany Manor is committed to building a positive culture for both staff and residents that will allow Bethany Life to be “the workplace of choice now and in the future!”

Timberland Village celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2022. Their occupancy is currently at more than 90% in all areas they serve. Cedar Place is at 98% occupancy. Households of Bethany received a 4 out of 5 rating this past year. A milestone which had not been attained in many years.

Affordables thrift store made over \$130,000 thru sales. At the annual meeting a check was presented for \$75,000 to be used for health related scholarships.

Life Choices at Bethany continues to grow as an important part of Bethany Life. There are currently 130 members enrolled in Life Choices.

Bethany at Home averages 100 clients per month being served in some way.

There is an upbeat feeling as you enter Bethany Manor. It is filled with people that care about each other and the residents. They work as a coordinated team to provide the best care possible to residents and their families.

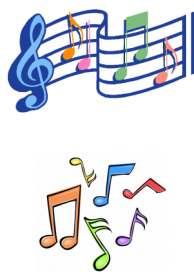
The mission statement of Bethany Life is “Caring for others with a Christian focus of hope, wellness and compassion.”

The Vision of Bethany Life is “Transforming the aging experience by providing comprehensive and innovative services wherever you call home”

Story City is so very fortunate to have the blessing of Bethany Life as our neighbor.

Mary Loupee, Grace UMC Bethany Life representative

Music Sunday



Grace UMC Council

Unofficial Minutes May 22, 2023 meeting

Present: Gloria Sampson (Chair, Missions), Becky Barclay (Finance), Louis Reeder (Trustee), Krystle Ness (SPRC), Pastor Jonathan, Claudia Pauk (Lay Leader), Cheryl Semler (Worship), Patsy Jensen (UWF)

Jonathan offered prayer and Gloria opened the meeting.

Patsy moved to approve the April 24th minutes. Krystle seconded. Motion carried.

Finance: Becky reported the church is in good financial shape. We will pay 1 month of apportionments in May (\$1947.30). Remaining apportionments will be \$5,743. There will be no Finance meeting in July.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Jonathan shared:

1. Was Community Acclamation speaker at the Roland Story graduation service on Sunday May 21st.
2. Office will be closed May 29th—Memorial Day
3. Will attend Annual Conference with Lay Leader Claudia Pauk on June 2-4. A Gidean speaker will provide the service in Jonathan's absence.
4. Will attend Kiwanis International Convention June 21-24 in Minneapolis.
5. Is not sure about attending the Kiwanis regional meeting in August
6. Will be taking vacation August 20th to go to Colorado. Possibility of the Brethren doing the service that Sunday.
7. Will be performing two weddings—June 17th and the July 9th wedding for Alex and Amy.

Committee Reports: Ministry Areas

Worship: Cheryl reported someone from the Gideans will be in charge of the service on June 4th when Jonathan is at Annual Conference. There will be no communion in June. There will be an outside service on June 18th and a service at Little Wall on July 9th.

Christian Education: Gini reported a very nice graduation service was held May 21st. May 14th was the last day of Sunday school with ice cream served. All teachers will be returning for the next year except Val Gregori who will be moving. There will be no confirmation class next year.

Missions: Gloria reported 14 families served 33 hours at the Loaves and Fishes. Ingathering received a grant for \$250 which was given to Loaves and Fishes. Four prayer shawls were given out. Jerri Bauman has agreed to lead a mission project in response to the CAT survey.

UWF: Patsy reported that everyone seems to be ready for the upcoming Scandinavian Pie, Ice Cream, Sandwich luncheon on June 2nd. Profits from this year's luncheon will go to the Trustees #1 project.

Committee Reports: Administrative Area

SPRC: SPRC members volunteered to meet with church staff members before the June 12th meeting to hear comments and concerns.

Trustees: Louis reported working with an electrician on updating the sound/monitors for the sanctuary. Drain Tech was working to see why there are water problems. A Fire extinguisher inspection was made along with inspection of the boiler and elevator. A carbon monoxide detector was installed in the boiler room.

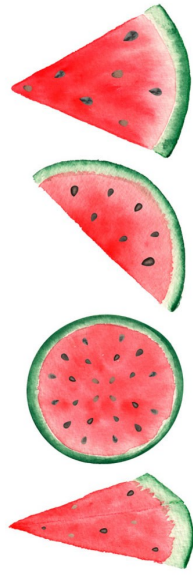
UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no other unfinished business.

NEW Business: Patsy reported that May 28th will be the last coffee fellowship with a celebration of Alex and Amy's upcoming wedding. Cake will be served. Motion was made by Krystle and seconded by Becky that there be no Council meeting in July. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting will be Monday, June 26th at 6:30

Respectfully submitted, Claudia Pauk



June 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 11-2 Scandinavian Days Pie Social and Bake Sale	3 Annual Conference
4 9:15 Worship Annual Conference	5	6 5:45 Kiwanis Fellowship Hall	7	8	9	10
11 9:15 Worship	12 5:30 Worship Comm. 6:30 SPRC	13 Shannon Out of Office	14	15	16 5 Wedding Rehearsal	17 4 Wedding
18 Father's Day 9:15 Worship Outdoor Service	19	20	21	22 Jonathan Out of Office	23 Office	24
25 8:00 Trustees 9:15 Worship	26 5:45 Finance 6:30 Council Shannon Out of Office	27	28	29	30	