



GRACE UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH  
PO BOX 67  
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STORY CITY, IA 50248

# The Grace Church Visitor

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MAY 2023

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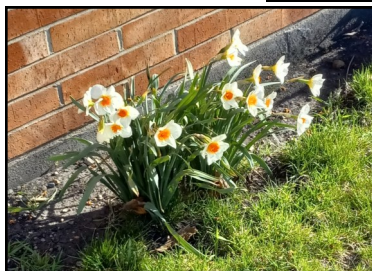
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Grace

Office Hours:  
Monday — Friday  
8:30 AM — 12:30 PM



*Spring at Grace United Methodist Church*



The Visitor is a  
monthly publication of  
Grace UMC, Story City.  
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*Grace = God's Riches At Christ's Expense*

## May Birthdays

Olivia Ness	5/1
Sheri Allen	5/4
Linda McVicker	5/7
Lynn Henricks	5/10
Emmalee Larson	5/14
Amber Hoskins	5/17
Fred Larson	5/17
Nancy Uran	5/17
Betty Hults	5/22
Duane Matson	5/24
Andrea Larson	5/28
Alex Franco	5/29

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



## May Lectionary

### May 7

Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16,  
1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14

### May 14

Acts 17:22-31, Psalm 66:8-20,  
1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21

### May 21

Acts 1:6-14, Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35,  
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11, John 17:1-11

### May 28

Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b,  
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13, John 7:37-39

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,

Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day and was established to remember those who had died in the service of the United States of America. In the aftermath of the Civil War, the national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic (an organization for Union veterans) chose the date of May 30 because it was not the anniversary of any particular battle. Southern states refused to honor the day, holding their own ceremonies for Confederate dead, as some still do. The holiday became more widely accepted after World War I, when the American dead from all wars were included.

Since Pentecost falls on Memorial Day weekend this year and I do not always get to celebrate Pentecost with you because I am sometimes at annual conference, I thought we would use this space to remember our military personnel and civilians lost on the battlefield, in the air, or at sea while serving our country over the years. It is important that we honor their memory and sacrifice without substituting it for the worship of God.

When I was doing some research about local men and women who served in World War II for the Story City Historical Society I was interested in the number of military funerals held at Grace Church. I wondered what I would have to say in such circumstances. When our people die in battle, it may be one of the few times when "Why?" is a valid question. When President Woodrow Wilson established Veteran's Day after World War I he said that it aimed to "show sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation." Above all else, such holidays should remind us of our highest ideals and intentions as a nation.

"Our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for our country, for life, and liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; in a word, for our goodly heritage. May we be worthy of it. Help us to hand it down enriched and untarnished to those who shall come after us. In the name of Jesus. Amen."  
Otto C. Seymour, First Presbyterian Church, Joplin, Missouri

Your Servant for Christ's Sake,  
Jonathan

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

I wonder whether Bob Hope was thinking of his USO tours when he said, "If I have to lay an egg for my country, I'll do it."

*May* God Bless You  
ON YOUR JOURNEY

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

### Dale & Lynn Henricks—chair

Mark & Joan Barrett, Jerrilyn Boman, Melissa Brown, Kurt & Denise Carlson, Jan Feil, Chris & Kate Feil, Alex & Amy Franco, Val Gregori, Andrea Jensen, Craig Jensen, Mike & Patsy Jensen, LeRoy & Priscilla Johnson, Brent & Jody Larson, Blake Larson, Riley Larson, Kevin & Linda Larson, Duane & Sharon Matson, Claudia Pauk, Louis & Tep Reeder, Elizabeth Rickerl, Gloria Sampson, Sam & Becky Senti, Dan & Marilyn Webster

## Sunday School

Sunday, May 14, will be the last day of Sunday School for the 2022-2023 school year. We've had a wonderful year with the kids and look forward to seeing them at Sunday School again in the fall.

## Communion in May



The pastor and the worship committee have decided to celebrate holy communion on the second Sunday in May, May 14, since the first Sunday, May 7, is Music Sunday. We will not have the sacrament in June because the pastor will be involved in annual conference on the first Sunday, June 4.

## Jury Duty

Jonathan Cooney has been called to jury duty during the weeks of Tuesday, May 9, and Tuesday, May 16. As many of you know, this may mean that he will be involved all of that time, some of it, or none at all. Be aware that he may not be available if he is told to report and/or chosen to serve. This was postponed from the fall because of his surgery.

## March Volunteers

### Sunday, May 7

Liturgist:

Kurt Carlson

Ushers:

Mike and Patsy Jensen, Savannah Jensen

### Sunday, May 14

Liturgist:

Dave Doolittle

Ushers:

Gloria Sampson, Claudia Pauk, Val Gregori

### Sunday, May 21

Liturgist:

Cathy Hermanson

Ushers:

Chris and Kate Feil, Jan Feil

### Sunday, May 28

Liturgist:

Gail Remis

Ushers:

Donyel and Helen Caruth, Dale and Lynn Henricks

## Sunday's in May



Please join us for our annual celebration of our choirs on Sunday, May 7th. Chancel Choir, Touch of Grace Bells; Children's Bells, and the Children's Choir will all share music that morning. There will also be an opportunity for the congregation to call out hymns they would like to sing.



May 14th is Mother's day. We will celebrate mothers and all the special women of our church family that morning. We will also share in holy communion together that Sunday.



May 21<sup>st</sup> is Graduation Sunday at Roland-Story High School. This year we have Emma Schnurstein graduating from high school. Join us on May 21<sup>st</sup> as we celebrate Emma.



May 28th is Pentecost Sunday, when we remember the birthday of the church as recorded in Acts 2. We hope you join us in celebrating both this Sunday and all the other Sundays in May.

Anyone can find the *dirt*  
in someone. Be the one  
who finds the *gold*.

Proverbs 11:27





### Our Prayers

Judy Andrew; Dorothy Carbaugh; Donyel Caruth—sister Tawnya has cancer; Sara Dappen; Rhonda Hampton's granddaughter Becca Lierman; Loretta Parker; The Taylors

### Our Gifts

**Offering April 2—April 23:**  
\$21,309.35

### Our Presence

**Attendance April 2—April 23**  
**Worship:** 506 Total/126 Avg.  
**Sunday School (April 2—April 23):**  
62 Total/20 Avg.(3 weeks)

### Our Witness

We appreciate our April liturgists: Lauren Crawford, Becky Barclay, Owen Hubert, Emmalee Larson, Isabelle Ness, Riker Warwick, Gail Remis and Claudia Pauk.

### Our Service

Thank you to Cheryl Semler for her efforts in putting together beautiful altar-scapes for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Morning services. All were quite lovely and meaningful.

Many thanks to Sharla for live streaming our worship services. We appreciate her dedication and care toward making sure our message gets out each week!

### Thank you!

A Big Thank You to Chris, Kate and Lena Feil for the donation of the IKEA bags to Loaves and Fishes. They are a big help!  
The Volunteers

### Thank you!

Thank you for your donation of \$150 in February 2023 for the Library Building Expansion Project. The check we received from Bethany Life shows that your trivia team was exemplary during the Bethany Life Trivia Night! We are very grateful you chose our project for this contribution, which has brought us even closer to our goal! The Bertha Bartlett Public Library Foundation is also matching your donation.

With sincerest thanks,  
Kolleen Taylor, Library Director

### Confirmation

Confirmation was held on April 23. Four of our youth were confirmed this year - Owen Hubert, Emmalee Larson, Isabelle Ness, and Riker Warwick. We are overjoyed to welcome them to our church family.



### Mission Brunch

Our April 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. \$594.00 was raised for Mobility Worldwide! This was our final brunch until next fall. Please plan to join us again next fall as we raise money for many worthwhile causes.

### Graduation Party



Please join us in celebrating Emma Schnurstein's graduation from Roland-Story High School. Her reception will be on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> from 11 am-2 pm in the Grace Church Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you then!

### Baptism

Ellie Jean Rasmussen was baptized on April 2. Ellie is the daughter of Torran and Natalie Rasmussen.



### Easter Lily Remembrance



Our Sanctuary was graced on Easter morning by families sharing beautiful Easter Lily plants in remembrance and honor of precious loved ones.



**Helen and Donyel Caruth**  
by Your Church Family

**Russell and Diane Clayberg**  
by Mark and Cathy Hermanson

**Gary and Renee Hubert**  
by Adam and Valerie Hubert

**Richard (Dick) & Karen Keech**  
**Karen Keech**

**Louie & Bessie Sinn**  
By Kent & Karen Keech

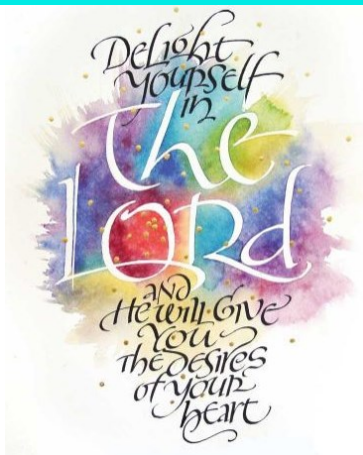
**Bud and Florence Mason**  
by Janet Mason

**The Parents of Cindy and Norman Spurlock**  
by Cindy and Norman Spurlock

**The Confirmation Class of 1973**  
by Cathy Hermanson, Cindy Spurlock, and Janet Mason

### 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.



## UWF News

On Wednesday April 12, 2023 fifteen members of United Women in Faith met at 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall of Grace Church. Patsy opened the meeting with a verse from Mark 1; Verse 6 followed by a prayer. We sang Bind Us Together followed by the Purpose. Patsy also gave us an update on Erma.

Terry presented the Mission Moment which dealt with individual giving.

Treasurer's Report was given by Sharla. We have a balance of \$839.59.

The minutes were read and approved.

A thank you to Jan for meat she has roasted. We were reminded that next month we will need to sign up for potato cake work day, Scandi Days duties and pies.

Patsy read a couple correspondences we had received and also shared information on upcoming events we can attend including the Nevada salad supper.

Tep reported on cards that she had sent on behalf of our group. Stamps need to be purchased as the price is going up.

A special thank you to Lena for helping purchase the IKEA bags for Loaves and Fishes. Also a reminder that we help with Loaves and Fishes on April 22.

Raejean, with help from Lena, then presented the program on how to give her drawing of Sally a positive face lift. This was accomplished with a reading from the book Through Their Eyes, a reading Raejean had written and several other readings.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 10 with Mission Moment: Jan; Program: Nancy and Hostess: Sue Jacobson

Submitted by Terry Gustason

## Summer Music

During the month of May, Claudia Pauk and Cathy Hermanson will be working to fill out our worship music schedule for the summer. We have lots of opportunity for those who would be interested in sharing their special musical gifts – vocal or instrumental. If you have a Sunday you would like to claim, just give Claudia or Cathy a call and they will get you on the calendar.

May 14	Mother's Day
May 28	Memorial Day Weekend
June 4	
June 11	
June 18	Father's Day—Outdoor Service
June 25	
July 2	
July 9	All Church Campout Service at Little Wall Lake
July 16	
July 23	
July 30	
August 6	
August 13	
August 20	
August 27	
September 3	Labor Day Weekend

## Loaves and Fishes

On Saturday, April 22, a group of 15 volunteers from Grace Church enabled 14 families (or 42 individuals) to have the opportunity to receive assistance at the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. Numerous other community members were able to enjoy free food items outside the building that had been collected from HyVee, Kum and Go, and Kwik Star by our volunteers. Being able to volunteer at Loaves and Fishes is a way to make a positive impact on our community. Thank you to everyone who helped to make it a successful day. Remember there is a cart located in the narthex where anyone can leave donations. We will make sure the items are delivered. Mark your calendars for July 8th. That will be our next opportunity to volunteer at Loaves and Fishes.





## Youth Group Update

Hello All,

The Lenten season has ended, the savior was crucified, dead, buried, AND ROSE AGAIN! With Lent being over, we are ready to start Compass up again! This past week we met at 5:00 instead of 6:30 which is how the rest of the year will go. This earlier meeting time gives the kids the rest of their evening with some daylight to spend time outside with friends or just hang out or do homework or whatever they want to do with the rest of the night.

We will be wrapping youth Group up VERY SOON this year with our last Compass meeting being May 3<sup>rd</sup> and the last Axis Meeting being May 7<sup>th</sup>. I am looking for something Fun to do on Both of those days so I will keep you posted there.

I am working at Riverside again this summer so there will be no official youth meetings over the summer but I might send out a remind on a Saturday morning if I decide to go get ice cream or hang out in Story City or something if they wanted to meet me wherever I would love to see them!

Thank you all for your continuous support for me and this ministry!

Best, Joel

## Clean Up Days

Thank you to everyone who helped clean up the church April 14 and 15. The church looks great inside and out! We appreciate all your hard work.

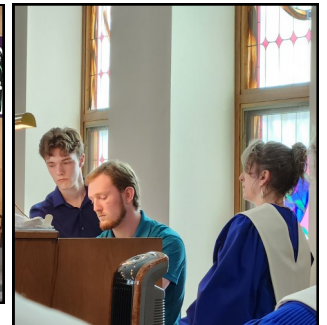


Thank  
you!



## Holy Week

Holy Week began with Palm Sunday on April 2 and ended with Easter Sunday on April 9. It was a wonderful week at Grace. It started with the children entering the church waving palms. We had a lovely service on Maundy Thursday where we heard from the choir, including a beautiful solo by Jarod Hart. Saturday we had several members help with the bunny trail at the park in town. On Easter Sunday we decorated the church with beautiful Easter Lilies. We were blessed by music from the bell choir. And Jarod started the service with a trumpet fanfare and ended with a wonderful benediction on the organ. We had a nice amount of people attend services during Holy Week—133 on Palm Sunday, 45 on Maundy Thursday and 147 on Easter Sunday. Thank you to everyone who made Holy Week truly special.



## 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](http://www.iaumc.org/camps).

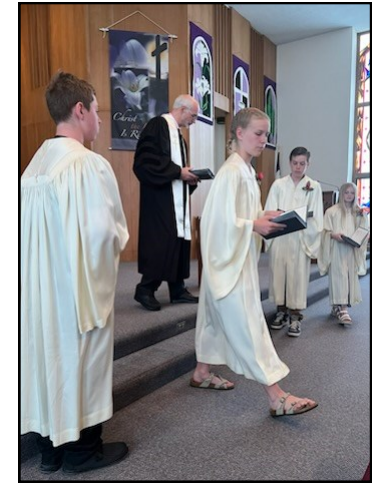
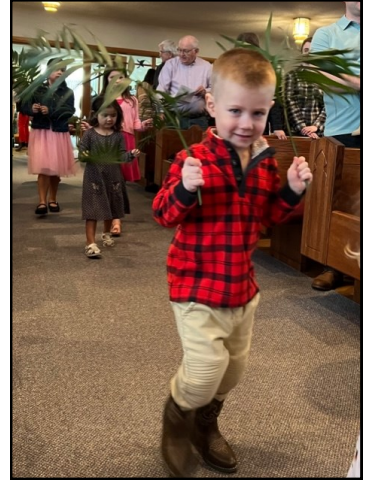
Remember, you need to give Gini Michel a copy of your registration in order to be reimbursed.

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%



Photos of Grace Church





# Grace UMC Council

## Unofficial Minutes April 24, 2023 meeting

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

**Jonathan offered prayer and Gloria opened the meeting.**

Cathy offered a correction to the March 2023 minutes regarding the Worship Committee report. The amended minutes should read: *The donated piano will be moved into the Fellowship Hall and the existing piano will be given away.* **Cheryl/Gini moved the Amended March minutes be accepted. Motion carried.**

**Finance:** Becky reported the church is in good financial shape. We will pay 1 month of apportionments in April (we've paid 7 months of 2023 at this point) and 100% of the District Ask for 2023. **Gini/Jim moved the report be accepted. Motion carried.**

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Jonathan shared:

- Participated at Teen Maze with RS middle school students in Boone.

- Helped with community Bunny Trail Easter Egg Hunt.

- Attended the annual Gideons' Breakfast for members of the clergy.

- Participated in a Continuing Ed opportunity in Pella.

- Coming up – Will sit in at a job fair at Roland-Story; a has a circuit training workshop coming up

- May 21 will deliver the Community Acclimation at Commencement at RSHS

- Must report for Jury Duty May 9 and May 16

- Summer – may attend a couple of Kiwanis conventions but won't be away on Sundays. May go to Colorado to help confirm a great-niece.

### **Committee Reports: Ministry Areas**

**Worship:** Cheryl reported the worship committee believes Jarod Hart is a rare gem and noted his extraordinary musical participation in the Easter worship service (Council concurred with their assessment!) May 7 – Music Sunday, May 14 – Communion & Mother's Day, May 21 – Baccalaureate Emma & Mason Schnurstein will provide special music, No Communion in June, June 18 Outdoor worship service, July 9 – worship service at Little Wall Lake. The Worship Committee believes G.R.A.C.E. Teams should not be responsible for leadership of social event organizing. The committee endorses participating in the joint Lenten Wednesday night services if we are invited another year.

**Christian Education:** Gini reported a successful Confirmation Sunday with impressive faith talks by our newest members was held on April 23. At least a few of the class members would be interested in rescheduling a visit to a Greek Orthodox worship service (bad weather prevented going at previously scheduled time). Our Sunday school teachers have agreed to teach again next year. Lone exception is Val Gregori who will be moving to North Carolina. We have some interest in camping this summer. 3 students will attend Scout Camp (50%), one student signed up for camp at Lake Okoboji (100%), 2 students plan to go to Riverside (75%), and one will attend a music camp (50%).

**Missions:** Gloria reported \$554.98 was given for Mobility Worldwide at our April Mission Brunch. 15 Grace volunteers worked at the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry (35 volunteer hours) as they served 13 families/38 individuals. Next meeting is May 21 – will be discussing ideas for fun volunteering opportunities.

**UWF** - Patsy reported that very good programs are being enjoyed at UWF meeting. Plans continue for Scandi Days fund-raising, Easter cards were sent to homebound friends, four members attended the Nevada UWF Salad Luncheon which was delicious as always and featured a wonderful program.

### **Committee Reports: Administrative Area**

**SPRC:** The Congregational Assessment form (formerly known as "Another Set of Eyes") was completed and submitted. SPRC members volunteered to meet with church staff members before the May meeting to hear comments and concerns.

**Trustees:** Louis & Jim reported a bid of \$60K was received for work on parking lot (alley) and drainage. Enlisting the help of Loyal Winborn as work continues updating the sound/monitors for the sanctuary. One unexpectedly large bid has been received. A successful Spring Work Day was held with good work completed outdoors and some spaces indoors. A five-year plan includes re-shingling the pitched church roof. Plans are to initiate a fund-raising campaign to help address our anticipated big capital expenses.

**Endowment:** First Quarter Equity accounts up 6.52% and Fixed account up 1.49%. \$918 to go to lighting and sound projects. \$2619 designated to go to Trustees for light and sound work.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Mission committee working on ideas for more social outreach for church and community.

**NEW Business** – Shannon has met with Caitlin Mander and will take over website maintenance. Let her know if you want something included on the website.

**Meeting Adjourned.**

**Next meeting will be Monday, May 22 at 6:30**

**Respectfully submitted, Cathy Hermanson, Rec Sec.**



# May 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 JSTT	2 6:30 JSTT	3 4:00 Homework Hangout—St. Petri 5:00 Children's Bells 5:00 Compass 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	4 6:30 JSTT	5	6
7 Music Sunday 9:15 Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 1:00 JSTT 6:00 Axis	8 5:30 Worship Comm. 6:30 JSTT	9 6:30 JSTT	10 1:30 UWF	11 6:30 JSTT	12	13
14 Mother's Day 9:15 Worship Communion 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School	15	16	17	18	19 Shannon Out of Office	20 11–2 Emma Schnurstein Graduation Party Fellowship Hall
21 Graduation Sunday 8:00 Trustees 8:15 Missions 9:15 Worship 10:15 Fellowship	22 Shannon Out of Office 5:45 Finance 6:30 Council	23	24	25	26	27
28 Memorial Sunday 9:15 Worship 10:15 Fellowship	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30	31		