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# The Grace Church Visitor

VOL. 75 NO. 1

JULY 2023



On May 28, we had a wedding celebration during fellowship time for Amy Harlan and Alejandro Franco. They are getting married on July 8. We wish them the best on this next stage of their life together.

HAPPY  
*Fourth of July*  
INDEPENDENCE DAY



June 2-4 was Annual Conference. Pastor Jonathan and Claudia Pauk attended on behalf of Grace. Pictured is Jonathan in his robes at annual conference.



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*Grace = God's Riches At Christ's Expense*

## July Birthdays

Jeanne Hohneke	7/3
Elizabeth Rickerl	7/3
Peyton Rickerl	7/4
Dave McVicker	7/9
Stephanie Fournier	7/14
Cale Gregori	7/14
Jim Hassebrock	7/15
Jarod Hart	7/16
Shelley Hart	7/19
Parker Witthuhn	7/19
Natalie Rasmusson	7/20
Blake Larson	7/23
Malinda Warwick	7/23
Kate Feil	7/25
Pauline Kokemiller	7/26
Denise Carlson	7/27
Gloria Sampson	7/27
Brylin Rickerl	7/28
Erma Schaeffer	7/29

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

## July Lectionary

### July 2

Genesis 22:1-14, Psalm 13  
Romans 6:12-23, Matthew 10:40-42

### July 9

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67,  
Psalm 45:10-17 or Psalm 72,  
Romans 7:15-25a, Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

### July 16

Genesis 25:19-34,  
Psalm 119:105-112 or Psalm 25  
Romans 8:1-11, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### July 23

Genesis 28:10-19a, Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24  
Romans 8:12-25, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

### July 30

Genesis 29:15-28, Psalm 105:1-11, 45b  
Romans 8:26-39, Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

Beloved,

Patriotism is a funny thing nowadays. People seem to have different definitions of it. Certainly, however I define patriotism is correct, while I am highly suspicious of anyone whose definition may seem different from mine. The late Queen Elizabeth II said, "True patriotism does not exclude an understanding of the patriotism of others."

Mark Twain is quoted as saying, "It were not best that we should all think alike; it is difference of opinion that makes horse races." And politics, I guess. One of the most intriguing characteristics of our national heritage is that we have tried to coexist as a people not because we always agreed but often through our very disagreements. It's been messy sometimes, but it's supposed to be how it works.

In the Old Testament the nation of Israel (and later Judah) was called to be the people of God. But that didn't mean that they always did as God directed them to do; as God expected them to do. In fact, the whole history of the ancient Israelites seems to be one of God continuing to call God's people back to righteousness. I don't think patriotism or nationalism is much at play in the New Testament. Neither Jesus or Paul seemed to be too concerned about a "Christian" nation or anything like that. The world of politics was about the Roman Empire and its various little kingdoms. It was a given. So Christians in the first century were learning how to *be* Christians, usually without much concern for all of that. There were no candidates to vote for.

Carl Schurz, German immigrant, Civil War general, Republican senator and Secretary of the Interior said, "Our country... when right, to be kept right; when wrong, to be put right." It's hard work, but it seems like Americans have a duty to steer our nation as close to the ideals of our democracy as possible.

Your Servant for Christ's Sake,

Jonathan

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

"Ask not what you can do for your country, for they are liable to tell you." Mark Steinbeck

In  
God  
We Trust



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

#### Gene & Erma Schaeffer - chr

Tony & Christine Semler-Blue, Connor Blue, Tanner Blue, Carroll & Judy Brekke, Adam & Lauren Crawford, Eric Dowe, Leah Frandson, Kristopher & Jessica Hensch, Adam & Valerie Hubert, Mindy Kardell, Alyssa Loots, Sharla Mander, Bill & Susan Mardock, Brian & Dee McNamara, Dave & Linda McVicker, Torran & Natalie Rasmussen, Nate & Malinda Warwick, Chase Blagg, Skylar Blagg

### Mowing



The church lawn looks great but we need help mowing it. If you are able to help, please sign up at:

<https://tinyurl.com/2023-mowing>

or on the sign up sheet in the narthex.

### All Church Camp Out

July 6-10 is our annual All Church Camp Out at Little Wall Lake. If you're not into camping but enjoy a good campfire, feel free to come join us around the campfire at approximately 6:30, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. If you have any questions, contact Kurt Carlson.

### Loaves and Fishes

It is Grace's turn to help with Loaves and Fishes on July 8, 9:30-Noon. If you are able to help, please contact Louis Reeder (402-641-6722) or Jan Feil (319-350-9157).

### 4th of July

The church office will be closed July 4 for the holiday. Have a great 4th of July!

### July Volunteers

#### Sunday, July 2

Liturgist: George Janvrin

Ushers: Nate and Malinda Warrick, Riker Warrick

#### Sunday, July 9 (Little Wall Lake—10am)

Liturgist: Dave Doolittle

Ushers: Adam and Valerie Hubert and family

#### Sunday, July 16

Liturgist: Becky Barclay

Ushers: Tony and Chrissy Semler-Blue family

#### Sunday, July 23

Liturgist: Del Johnston

Ushers: Judy Brekke, Mindy Kardell

#### Sunday, July 30

Liturgist: Gail Remis

Ushers: Torrance and Natalie Rasmusson Family

### Sunday, July 9



On Sunday, July 9, our church service will be held at Little Wall Lake. Church will be at **10:00am** (note the time change). We will meet under the pavilion at the park. There are plenty of picnic tables but you're welcome to bring lawn chairs and blankets. Following the service there will be an informal potluck lunch. Feel free to bring some food to share. They are planning to roast hot dogs and will provide buns, chips and a drink. We hope to see you there for a enjoyable worship service and time of fellowship following the service.

### Summer Music

Thank you to all who have agreed to provide special music this summer. Please join us at our weekly worship services for a summer full of musical praise.

Claudia Pauk and Cathy Hermanson



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 – Gail Remis

Aug 20 – The Brethren

Aug 27 – Mason Schnurstein

Sept 3 –

### Our Prayers

Dorothy Carbaugh; Donyel Caruth—sister Tawnya has cancer; Jonathan Cooney and Becky Coons—engagement; Sara Dappen; Jan Feil's mother—Editha Adrian; Sharla Mander—traveling; Loretta Parker; Paula Sampson—Cancer Surgery; The Taylors

### Our Gifts

**Offering June 4—June 25:**  
\$15,562.00

### Our Presence

**Attendance June 4—June 25**  
**Worship:** 235 Total/59 Avg.

### Our Witness

We appreciate our June liturgists:  
Dave Doolittle, Del Johnston,  
Claudia Pauk, and Gloria  
Sampson

Thank you to Greg Dieter who filled in for Jonathan while he was at Annual Conference on July 4. We enjoyed his wonderful message.

Thank you to the musicians who provided special music during the month of June: George Janvrin, Steve and Tressa Reisetter and Gail Remis

### Our Service

Thank you to everyone who brought baked goods to share at the Scandinavian Days bake sale and pie social. We couldn't do it without you!

Thank you to everyone helping mow the lawn this summer. The lawn looks great!

### Thank You!

Dear Pastor Cooney,

Thank you for the opportunity to share a Gideon report with your congregation on Sunday, June 4. Fellow Gideon Loren Tjernagel and I had a warm welcome with many thank you and personal greetings from your members. I enjoyed the lovely service and time of worship.

The Gideon ministry is an outreach of the many supporting churches that identify with the call to service in the name of the Lord Jesus. The annual membership dues are used for administrative expenses and to purchase scriptures in the home state where the funds originated. When our members visit the state universities in September, the thousands of scriptures handed to students and staff are funded by the Gideon members of Iowa. Of church offerings, 50% are used for international scripture outreach, 4% for freight and allied costs, the remainder is used for scripture purchases for hotel, jails, colleges, medical/hospital facilities. We, in the Gideon ministry, are assured that God's Word will accomplish his purposes and will not return empty. Isaiah 55:11. The offering from the congregation was \$152. This offering will purchase nearly 100 scriptures!

Thank you for your support of the Gideon ministry and for all that you do.

In Christ,  
Greg Dieter

### Scandinavian Days Pie Social and Bake Sale

Total amount raised during the pie social and bake sale:

Bake Sale	\$1,106.50
Sandwich Line	\$1,560.08
Pie and Ice Cream Social	\$1,491.78
Total	\$4,158.36

To all the amazing people of Grace Church with willing hands and generous hearts:

Thank You for all your hard work and dedication in making our annual bake sale, sandwich line and pie and ice cream a huge success. You never disappoint.

Erma & Patsy

### Thank you!

Thank you for your support through my high school journey and for helping me celebrate my graduation from Roland-Story High School. Next year, I plan to attend the University of South Dakota to study Marketing and Entrepreneurship. I have been accepted to their honors program and plan to continue singing! Thank you for the book of prayers and for supporting me since we moved here. From, Emma Schnurstein



## Annual Conference Report

By Claudia Pauk

# 180<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, the 180<sup>th</sup> session of the Iowa annual conference of the United Methodist church was held at the RecPlex in West Des Moines, Iowa.

The opening session started at 9:00 a.m. with the Holy Conferencing of the Action Calendar. All Action items were passed during the two day event. One action item was presented to the conference that was not on the Action Calendar---that was regarding the change BACK to the Northwest, Northeast, Southeast, Southwest and Central district names that Iowa used to have. There was a lot of discussion regarding this action with no change being made at this time.

The Service of Remembering and Thanksgiving was held and was a very touching service. It remembered those elders, deacons, pastors, lay speakers and spouses of clergy who had passed.

It also remembered those churches in Iowa that were closing. There were 13 church closings with the oldest church (Unionville United Methodist Church) which was formed in 1846 and eleven other churches which were founded in the 1800's. The Davenport Grace UMC was founded in 1923.

There were also 84 church disaffiliations from the United Methodist Church. Eight of those were in the Riverview Park District. There were also 41 Elders/Deacons and 18 part-time pastors that were disaffiliated from the United Methodist Church.

On Sunday the session opened with the Ordering of Ministry and Retirement. A very impressive service that included communion. Pastor Jonathan processed in with all the other Elders, Deacons and Pastors present at the conference. He looked very nice in his robes.

Several reports by different groups were given to the attendees. The final budget for 2024 was presented and approved. The 2024 budget was \$8,598, 292, which was 2.8% lower than the 2023 budget. It was also reported that \$343,459 was presented in scholarships to 79 Iowa students in 2022. It was also reported that there would be no increase in health insurance expense for clergy.

I would like to leave you with this thought---What is going to be for the United Methodist Church is yet to be seen, but is something God alone can see. Beginning with the Jews who left Egypt and wandered for 40 years because God was preparing them for their final home. We also are transitioning and have no idea what lies ahead, but God will lead us into the future and it is our responsibility to follow and spread His word along the way.



Our lay member to annual conference this year, Claudia Pauk, was interested in this project by Midwest Mission turning used plastic bags into sleeping mats for the homeless.



Rev. Barb Mittman, a former Grace staff member, celebrated 25 years as an ordained deacon in the Iowa annual conference this year. She also helped Bishop Kenetha Bigham-Tsai during the service of retirement and ordination on June 4.



## Scandinavian Days Bake Sale and Pie Social





# Grace UMC Council

## Unofficial Minutes June 26, 2023 meeting

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

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

**Cheryl/Patsy moved the May minutes be accepted. Motion carried.**

**Finance:** Finance didn't meet in June.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Jonathan reported he and Claudia attended Annual Conference June 2-4, and Claudia spoke about possibly acquiring a loom to create very comfortable sleeping mats out of plastic grocery bags for mission projects use. Jonathan conducted a wedding at the church on June 17 – full church, service complete in 30 minutes. Jonathan attended the International Kiwanis convention in Minneapolis. Coming Up: Franco wedding on July 8 and his August Colorado vacation – will miss Aug. 20 service. Brethren will share songs and testimonies on that day at Grace.

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

**Worship:** Cheryl reported the Worship Committee set a 10:00 worship service time for our July 9 service at Little Wall Lake. Dale and Lynn Henricks are retiring from acting as leaders of their G.R.A.C.E. Team – Mindy Kardell has agreed to become the new team leader. Our thanks to the Henricks' for their faithful, loving service as team leaders for many years.

**Christian Education:** No new news.

**Missions** – The committee hasn't met recently. Grace serves at Loaves & Fishes on July 8. Volunteers needed!

**UFW:** Patsy reported Scandi Days lunch and pie social were very successful – around \$4,000 was raised to be used for various projects around the church and mission giving. July 12 meeting will be a breakfast hosted by UFW officers. UFW doesn't meet in August.

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

**SPRC:** Krystal reported members had met with church employees and shared updates on job satisfaction. All employees will remain in their positions. May look into employing Jarod Hart for increased accompaniment duties. SPRC will discuss salary recommendations at their August meeting.

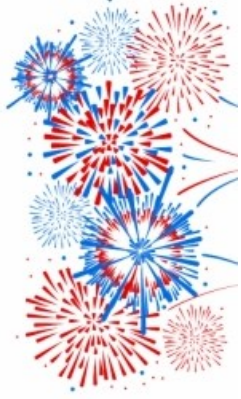
**Leadership:** Mindy Kardel new Team leader, soon this committee will begin work on recruiting 2024 leadership.

**Trustees:** Louis reported work on lighting sound projects continue. Their short-term drain solution for the east side drainage problem is holding until they can do a more thorough job. The weather stripping on the front (west) glass doors is shot – looking into replacing that original stripping. Acquiring quotes for sanctuary carpet cleaning. Jonathan suggested Trustees may need to review wedding guidelines to address fees structure amendments and policy regarding flower petals.

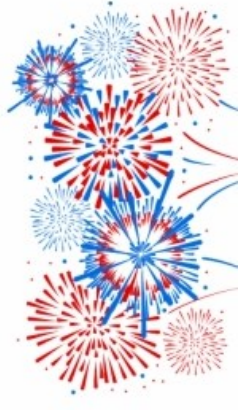
**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Jonathan thanked the church family for welcoming his fiancée, Becky, on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. They will be married at a 1:00 service on October 7. Brian McNamara will officiate. Church reception for the couple will be held during an after-worship fellowship time on a date to be announced. Jonathan will be away for both the October 8 and 15 worship services.

Next meeting will be **MONDAY, August 28 at 6:30,** We DO NOT meet in July.

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



# July 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:15 Worship	3	4 Office Closed	5	6	7 4:00 Wedding Rehearsal All Church Camp Out	8 9:30 Loaves and Fishes 3:00 Wedding
9 10:00 Worship @Little Wall Lake Potluck following service All Church Camp Out	10 5:30 Worship Committee	11	12 8:30 UWF Breakfast	13	14	15
16 9:15 Worship	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 9:15 Worship	24 No Council or Finance Committee meetings this month	25	26	27	28	29
30 9:15 Worship	31		