



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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Grace

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

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

The Grace Church Visitor

VOL. 75 NO. 2

AUGUST 2023



Volunteers helped at
Loaves and Fishes on
July 8.



F.R.O.G.



Fully Rely On God

We had a great turn out for our worship ser-
vice at Little Wall Lake on July 9.



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Grace = God's Riches At Christ's Expense

August Birthdays

Conner Blue	8/1
Amy Franco	8/1
Gail Remis	8/3
John Gookin	8/6
Jennifer Haskin	8/6
Valerie Hubert	8/15
Eli Hubert	8/16
Jayden Rickerl	8/16
Chris Feil	8/17
Mychal Spencer	8/19
Jonathan Cooney	8/23
Donyel Caruth	8/24
Dorothy Carbaugh	8/25
Mary Loupee	8/25
Nixon Flaspohler	8/27
Craig Jensen	8/27
Sharon Matson	8/27

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



August Lectionary

August 6

Genesis 32:22-31, Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21

August 13

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28,
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b,
Romans 10:5-15, Matthew 14:22-33

August 20

Genesis 45:1-15, Psalm 133,
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32, Matthew 15:21-28

August 27

Exodus 1:8-2:10, Psalm 124,
Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20

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,

It's been pretty quiet around the church this summer. But already we are anticipating the start of school, Sunday school, and choir practices. Soon all of the normal busy-ness of the church calendar will wash over us once again and we'll find that we are dealing with many of the same issues we left behind when we all went on vacation a few months ago.

When I was serving in Ohio I came to know Paul Nickerson who coaches churches out of his home in Massachusetts. Paul is a very personable, caring man who worked with our congregation in person and online. In one of his recent newsletters, Paul asked, "Are your church leaders anxious?" Paul says there is a lot of anxiety out there about not having as many people and as much money as we used to, a lack of energy among active members, and the difficulty of reaching new people in a de-churched culture. All of these concerns are real; the question is: what are we going to do with that anxiety?

Paul says we need to remember whom we worship, whose church it is, and who is control. Psalm 33:22 says, "Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you." Paul adds, "When we are anxious, it is critical to remember that this is God's church and that God walks with us in these times as we seek to adapt and change and reach out to others. It is moving from sitting in a meeting and wringing our hands, to opening our hands to receive all God intends for us."

One of the most common phrases in the Bible is "fear not." Churches often make poor decisions out of fear. We are more faithful than fearful when we know God is with us and live out of an abundance, rather than a scarcity model.

No one says that the challenges to the church aren't real but we are meant to be a people of hope. Knowing that we trust in a God who walks with us, we can be faithful leaders for the church and the community we are trying to reach.

Your Servant for Christ's Sake,
Jonathan

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

There was a man in the church choir who couldn't sing a note in tune if his life depended on it. He resisted all suggestions that he would make a fine usher. The choir director and several members pleaded with the pastor, "You've got to get that man out of the choir or the Christmas program will be ruined."

When the pastor suggested he should leave the choir the man asked why. "Well," said the pastor, "I hate to say this, but five or six people have told me that you can't sing."

"That's nothing," the man replied, "Twenty-five people have told me you can't preach!"

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

Mark & Cathy Hermanson - chr

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, Jane Jackson, George Janvrin, Fred Larson, David & Mary Loupee, Sharene Lykins, Norm & Cindy Spurlock, Tim & Kim Tryon, Rick & Grace Welke, Lon & Beckey Witthuhn, Jori Witthuhn

Mowing



Summer is passing quickly but we still need the grass mowed. Please sign up to help mow the lawn in the narthex or at:

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

Sunday, August 20

On August 20, Jonathan will out of town visiting family. The Brethren will be leading out service with some wonderful music and worship time. Jonathan will be out of the office several days before and after the 20th as well.

Out of Office

Shannon will be out of the office on August 14 to move her daughter into her college dorm room.

Congratulations!

Congrats to Alex and Amy Franco. They were married on July 8. It was a beautiful ceremony and we pray for a blessed and long marriage for them!

August Volunteers

Sunday, August 6

Liturgist: George Janvrin

Ushers: Dave and Mary Loupee, Cindy Spurlock

Sunday, August 13

Liturgist: Gail Remis

Ushers: George Janvrin, Doug Doolittle

Sunday, August 20

Liturgist: Cathy Hermanson

Ushers: Mark Hermanson, Cindy Spurlock, Doug Doolittle

Sunday, August 27

Liturgist: Dave Doolittle

Ushers: Jim and Shelley Hassebrock, Doug Doolittle

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

Aug 6 – Ray Hults

Aug 13 – Gail Remis

Aug 20 – The Brethren

Aug 27 – Mason Schnurstein

Sept 3 – Judy Andrew

Loaves and Fishes

On July 8, Grace church took their turn helping out at Loaves and Fishes. We had 10 members of our congregation come and help out. We appreciate them and their willingness to serve our community. With their help we were able to help 24 families/85 individuals receive much needed assistance.

Outdoor Service

On August 27, we will be holding out service outdoors in Pastor Jonathan's backyard. We got rained out when we tried to do this in June, so we'll pray the weather cooperates on August 27. We will move the service time to **10:00am** that morning. Following the service we will have a salad luncheon in the fellowship hall. Bring a salad to share and enjoy a fun time of fellowship. The quilters will be providing rolls and drinks. Plates and silverware will be provided as well. We hope to see you there.

Our Prayers

Ross Barclay—engaged to Beth; Chase Blagg—being deployed; Dorothy Carbaugh; Donyel Caruth—sister Tawnya has cancer; Becky Coons—friend, Julie Leonard, had surgery; Sara Dappen; Doug Feil; Jan Feil and family—mother, Editha Adrian, passed away; Ray Hults—cancer free after 6 years; Priscilla Johnson—friend Kay Mortzedt surgery; Loretta Parker; Paula Sampson—Cancer; The Taylors; Jaydon Taylor—broke arm

Our Gifts

Offering July 2—July 30:
\$14,389.00

Our Presence

Attendance July 2—July 23
Worship: 352 Total/70 Avg.

Our Witness

We appreciate our July liturgists:
George Janvrin, Dave Doolittle,
Becky Barclay, Del Johnston, and
Gail Remis

Thank you to the musicians who provided special music during the month of July: Tanner Blue, Jonathan Cooney, George Janvrin, Jeri Bouman, Claudia Pauk, and Chase Blagg.

Our Service

Thank you to Kurt Carlson for organizing our all-church camp out. We appreciate all you do.
Thank you to everyone who helped make our service at Little Wall Lake successful. We were blessed with a wonderful service and couldn't have done it without you.

Thank you!

Dear Grace church,
Thank you for paying partially for my camp. It was an amazing opportunity that I learned a lot from. I will use what I learned and my talents to give back to the church.
Thanks again,
Mason Schnurstein

You Are Invited



MS. REBECCA ANN COONS
+
THE REV. DR. JONATHAN COONEY

10-07-23 at 1:00 pm

Grace United Methodist Church, 624 Elm Ave.

Story City, Iowa

Reception for church family to follow at a later date



Chancel Choir



Dust off your vocal cords and mark your calendars. It's time for our Chancel Choir to get back to work.

Rehearsals will begin on August 30 at 7:00 pm

We will sing for the first time on September 17.

Highschoolers through ?? are invited and encouraged to join us as we share our music during the first and third Sunday worship services from September until May.

If you have any questions please contact Rhonda Hampton.

Children's Bell Choir



Erma Schaeffer and Claudia Pauk are ready to welcome our younger children (Age 4 through 6th grade) back to bell choir! Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, August 30 at 5:00 p.m. in the choir room at the top of the stairs at the north entrance to the building.

Rehearsals will typically be the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. And they will share their music with the congregation at every other 4th Sunday worship service beginning September 24.

Thank you!

Dear Grace Church Family,

I can't begin to tell you how blessed I felt to be given one of your prayer shawls. It's a gift I treasure. It went with me to the hospital and covered me with warmth, love and prayers following my surgery. I feel both the love of the Grace Family and the love of God as I am covered with the prayers of the Saints!

Thank you so much for the beautiful shawl and the love and prayers that came with it.

Love,
Paula Sampson

Touch of Grace Bells



The Touch of Grace Bell Choir will begin their rehearsals for the 2023-24 year on Wednesday, August 30th at 8:00 p.m. This initial rehearsal is first dedicated to giving the bells a thorough cleaning and polish before playing through a few songs.

Judy Brekke is our director and works to select music that will challenge our ringers and inspire our listeners. The choir meets most every Wednesday evening September through April and plays on the second Sunday of each month, except May, when they participate in Music Sunday on the first Sunday.

Youth Group

Church!

Welcome back to school season! I hope you all are getting ready to send your kids back to School and Back to youth group! Compass (5-8) are coming back on August 30! We are planning on doing a welcome-back Pizza Party at the beginning followed by a short bible study and then games! I can't wait to see you all again!

Joel Chambers

Youth and Families Ministries Coordinator

Thank you!

Dear Grace United Methodist Church,

Thank you for all the opportunities you all have given me and thank you for also being able to help me go on trips like the Summit Bechtel Reserve, Riverside, and Mitigwa. All these activities have been super awesome to go to and I am glad that I got the opportunity to find and enjoy New adventures! While at Riverside I felt very spiritually connected and I am so Glad that going to Riverside was a brand new opportunity for me! Thank you for all that you do for me!

Thank you, Riker Warwick



Worship Service at Little Wall Lake

July 6-10 was our annual all church camp out. As part of that we held our worship service at Little Wall Lake on Sunday, July 9. Following the service we had a potluck lunch. We grilled hot dogs and enjoyed a fun-filled time of fellowship with each other. The weather was wonderful for our service. We couldn't have asked for a better day to worship with each outside.



On a damp July 12th Wednesday morning, okay a torrential downpour is probably a better description of the weather, members and friends of Grace United Women of Faith met at 8:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall for a breakfast. We aren't about to let a little rain ruin a time of fellowship. What better way to spend a rainy morning than with good friends and a breakfast of quiche, fruit, juice and hot coffee?

Barb Meister, domestic administrator for Go Serve Global, Delivering Hope gave a very inspirational talk about her experiences with the organization. She took us on a tour from Haiti to Winterset, Iowa as her organization helped people get back on their feet after earthquakes, tornadoes and storms. Members also shared their experiences of the 1976 tornado that hit Story City and surrounding areas.

We take a break during the month of August but will begin again on September 13, 2023. As always we extend an invitation to all women of Grace United to join us.



Nate Warwick, Riker Warwick and Owen Hubert at Summit Bechtel Reserve.

Riker Warwick enjoying camp at Riverside.



Nate Warwick, Adam Hubert, Owen Hubert and Riker Warwick at Boy Scout camp.



Jeri Bouman and Claudia Pauk share special music with the church on July 16.



Tanner Blue shares special music with the church on July 9.



Jonathan shares a special message with the children each week.



Chase Blagg shares special music with the church on July 23.





August 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:15 Worship	7	8	9 9:00-3:30 Fellowship Hall Reserved	10	11	12
13 9:15 Worship	14 No Worship Comm. No SPRC	15	16	17	18	19
20 8:00 Trustees 8:15 Missions 9:15 Worship	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 10:00 Worship -Outdoor Service Salad Luncheon to follow service	28 5:45 Finance 6:30 Council	29	30 5:00 Children's Bells 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	31		