



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

The Grace Church Visitor

VOL. 75 NO. 3

SEPTEMBER 2023



*Wherever life
Plants you,
Bloom with
GRACE*



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Grace = God's Riches At Christ's Expense

September Birthdays

Emma Schnurstein	9/1
Michelle Hassebrock	9/3
Stacy Winborn	9/10
Fred Darbonne	9/13
Lincoln Rasmussen	9/15
Nicole Swets	9/15
Skylar Blagg	9/20
Riley Larson	9/20
Marilyn Webster	9/21
Cathy Hermanson	9/22
Mike Marti	9/24
Cindy Spurlock	9/24
Terry Gustason	9/25
Raymond Hults	9/25
Beckey Witthuhn	9/30

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



September Lectionary

September 3

Exodus 3:1-15, Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45,
Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28

September 10

Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 149 or 148,
Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20

September 17

Exodus 14:19-31, Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21,
Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

September 24

Exodus 16:2-15, Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 or
Psalm 78, Philippians 1:21-30,
Matthew 20:1-16

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,

We get used to seeing everything from the perspective of our particular ethnic background, gender, or faith expression. It is helpful and healthful to look through other lenses from time to time. In fact, it is a necessity. As we approach the autumn season, our church program year ramps up and we prepare for church conference and year-end reports. For the most part, Grace United Methodist Church is in a great position to expend her ministry. But there are always other things... I read through the reports from other annual conferences I have served and was surprised how many of my former congregations chose to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church this year. But that's not the point.

A certain rabbi tells the story about a man who read the morning paper every morning as he enjoyed his orange juice. One day, as he scanned the obituaries, he was shocked to see his own name on the list. The accompanying information was a complete match! He immediately called the newspaper office and insisted the editor publish a retraction. The editor replied, "Sir, the paper does not make mistakes." "But I'm alive," the man insisted, "I'm talking to you now on the phone!" "Sir," the editor said, "We cannot issue a correction or an apology. However, if you insist, we can put your name in tomorrow's birth column."

Rabbi Yossy Goldman says that 80 years ago it seemed the obituary had been written for the Jewish people. Hitler's Museum of the Extinct Jewish Race was in the planning stages. Yet, the survivors emerged, rebuilt and revived, and are still God's people today. Whether we're talking about the aftermath of the Holocaust, the stories from Exodus we are reading this month, or the church of Christ in every day and age, it seems God's people are never down for the count.

"We have a role to play," Goldman says, "a mission to accomplish—each of us in our own personal lives and all of us collectively. We cannot opt out. We are only as good as the sum of all our parts. And the very trajectory of history depends on us, too. Our actions can change not only our own situation, but the rest of the world, too, and can even achieve global redemption. Our 'chosenness' is as much a responsibility as a privilege."

Your Servant for Christ's Sake,
Jonathan

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

On my trip to Wisconsin and the Great Lakes last year I bought a pirate flag with the motto: "The beatings will continue until morale improves." No one is sure where this comes from, although something like it appears in the account of the mutiny on the HMS Bounty. It sounds like the minutes of a certain church meeting: "We are going to continue to have meetings every day until we find out why no work is getting done."

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

Mindy Kardell - chr

Mark & Joan Barrett, Jerrilyn Bouman, 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, Emma 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

Mowing



School has started but the lawn is still growing. Please sign up to help mow the lawn in the narthex or at:

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

New Address

Val Gregori has moved but you can still keep in touch with her at her new address.

Val Gregori
1849A Evans Rd.
Clarksville, TN 37042

Coffee Fellowship

Coffee fellowship begins again on September 10. It is a time of fellowship offered following the service at 10:15 downstairs in the fellowship hall. Coffee and lemonade is available along with a tasty snack. Mike and Patsy Jensen and their family host this time through out the year. We thank them for their service as we enjoy having this time to fellowship together.

September Volunteers

Sunday, September 3

Liturgist: Del Johnston
Ushers: Gloria Sampson, Dan Webster

Sunday, September 10

Liturgist: Lauren Crawford
Ushers: Mike and Patsy Jensen

Sunday, September 17

Liturgist: Becky Barclay
Ushers: Louis and Tep Reeder

Sunday, September 24

Liturgist: Gail Remis
Ushers: Jerrilyn Bouman, Craig Jensen

Bulletin Folder: Mindy Kardell

Summer Music

Thank you to everyone who provided special music all summer. It's been great hearing all the wonderful talent in our church. We have one last Sunday of special music before our choirs return to bless us with their music.

Sept 3 – Judy Andrew



Our Prayers

Dorothy Carbaugh; Donyel Caruth—sister Tawnya has cancer; Becky Coons—friend, Julie Leonard, had surgery; Sara Dappen; Doug Feil; Ray and Betty Hults—loss of cousin in burglary/murder; Priscilla Johnson—friend Kay Mortvedt surgery; Loretta Parker; Paula Sampson—Cancer; The Taylors; Congratulations to these couples celebrating 40 blessed years together—Kevin and Candi Holm, Jim and Shelley Hassebrock, and Rick and Grace Welke

Our Gifts

Offering August 6—August 27:
\$12,962.00

Our Presence

Attendance August 6—August 27
Worship: 293 Total/73 Avg.

Our Witness

We appreciate our August liturgists:
George Janvrin, Gail Remis, Cathy Hermanson and Dave Doolittle

Thank you to the musicians who provided special music during the month of August: Ray Hults, Gail Remis, The Brethren, and Mason Schnurstein

Our Service

Thank you to Cathy Hermanson and Claudia Pauk for organizing our special music this summer. We appreciate your providing us with beautiful music.

Thank you!

Thank you for the money to go to camp.
Adaline

Thank you!

Grace Church,
Thank you for paying the cost for me to attend Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp! What a great week I had. I got to do some very fun activities including kick ball, slip and slides, roasting s'mores, and watching the mime of Jesus's life! Thank you again. I look forward to going back this coming fall!

-Savannah Jensen

Thank you!

Chase Blagg's National Guard Unit is traveling back to Iowa the end of August. Chase want to thank everyone for keeping him in your prayers while he was deployed to the southern border. Thank you!

Thank you!

The quilters extend their heartfelt thank you for the overwhelming response to our salad luncheon with their presence and the abundance of the 2 long tables completely filled with salads and Claudia's homemade rolls. And thank you for the SUPER help from our Grace youth, Riker Warwick, Isabelle, Olivia and Owen Ness, Lily Berry and Savannah Jensen who most certainly lightened our load.

God is so good to us.
The Quilters

Mission Brunch

Mission brunch begins again in September. Mission brunch is the fourth Sunday of the month following the service at 10:15am. All money raised at the brunch goes to support a different mission each month. On September 24 our mission brunch will be supporting In-gathering. We hope you will join us for a delicious breakfast that morning and support a wonderful cause.

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.

High schoolers 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.

Adult Sunday School

Beginning September 10, Jonathan Cooney will lead a study for adults and young people based on the book *Five Marks of a Methodist: The Fruit of a Living Faith* by Steve Harper. This little book is based on John Wesley's 1742 treatise, *The Character of a Methodist*. What is distinctive about Methodism? What do we share with others? A Methodist loves God, rejoices in God, give thanks, prays constantly, and loves others. Participants will benefit from the class with or without the book, but the church will order twelve copies. If anyone wishes to reimburse the church, a \$10.00 donation will be appreciated.

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.

Sunday School

During our worship service on Sunday, September 10, our Sunday school teachers will be consecrated to bless them and the work they will be doing with our students this year. New third grade students will be presented with Bible of their very own. Sunday school classes will meet at 10:30 in their respective rooms.

Here is the roster of our teachers and the grade levels they will be teaching:

Early Childhood – 1st Grade	Beckey Witthuhn
2nd – 4th Grade	Christine Semler Blue
5th – 7th Grade	Craig Jensen

Other Team Members

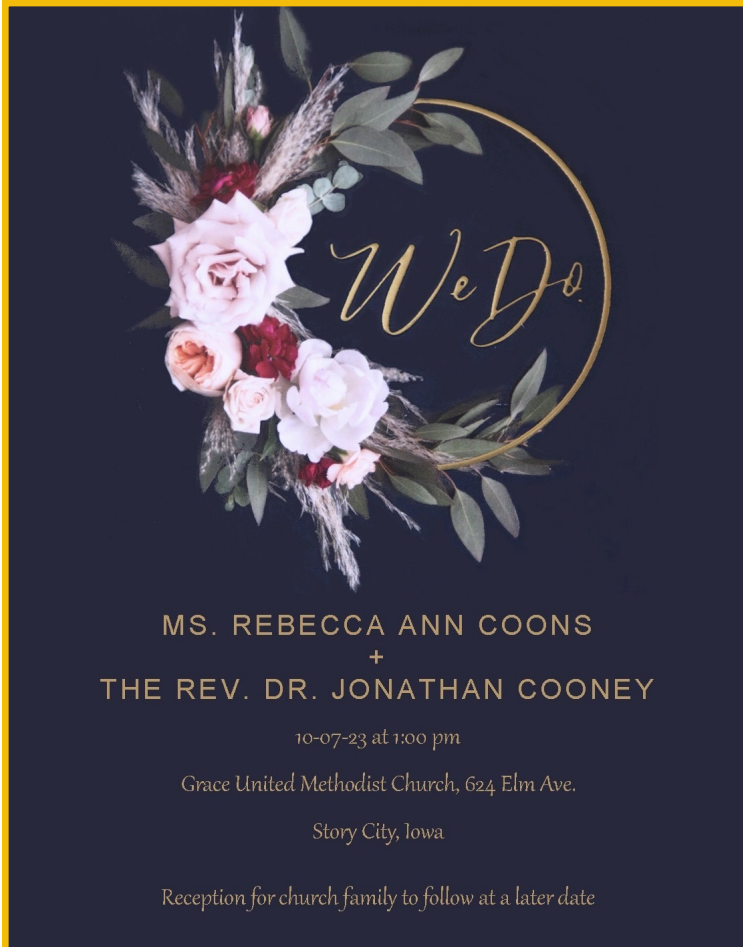
Jonathan Cooney
Rhonda Hampton
Erma Schaeffer
Claudia Pauk
Cathy Hermanson
Shelley Hart
Brian McNamara

Co-Superintendents

Gini Michel
Raejean Bickelhaupt



You Are Invited



UWF News

The United Women in Faith didn't meet in August so there is no report this month. Their next meeting is Wednesday, September 13 at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. The Mission Moment will be given by Raejean Bickelhaupt, Terry Gustason will provide the program and Nancy Uran will serve as hostess.



Jonathan Vacation



Jonathan had the privilege to lead the service and confirm his great-niece, Jerilyn Fischer, at Allenspark Community Church in Colorado on Sunday, August 20.



Youth Group

CHURCH!

The youth group is back! I am so excited to get back into the swing of things!

Compass will meet on Wednesday, August 30, at 6:00 at St Petri! We will be having a Pizza party and just joining in fellowship together! The following week we will start our Bible Studies again! We will be moving on with the same curriculum as last year. For the Month of September, we will be going through a 4-week series called "Unbelievable Jesus" about believing and being faithful.

Axis will also be meeting on Sunday, September 3, at 6 also at St. Petri. We will also have Pizza but will have a bible study with it! High school will spend this semester going into the fruits of the spirit and I am really excited to start that!

I am looking forward to seeing all of the kids and I can't wait to have the opportunity to pour into them again this year!

Blessings!

Joel



Maui Project

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Announces Maui Project

(Updated as of Aug. 14, 2023) Wind-driven wildfires on Maui have prompted evacuations and caused significant loss of life and widespread damage. UMCOR is coordinating with the California-Pacific Annual Conference to process an initial grant for emergency supplies such as shelf-stable food, water, hygiene items and tools to help survivors recover belongings. As first responders continue to provide initial aid in the area, please join UMCOR in prayer for those affected. Gifts can be made in the following ways:

- ♦ Online at <https://umcmission.org/advance-project/901670>
- ♦ By toll-free telephone call: 1-888-252-6174
- ♦ By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with "Advance #901670-Hawaii" written on the memo line and mailed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068
- ♦ By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with "Advance #901670-Hawaii" written on the memo line and given to any United Methodist church.

100% of your gift goes to this project. Administrative costs are covered by other funds.

From the Office of Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai



Devastating wildfires have raged across Maui, Hawaii to the tragic loss of more than a hundred lives and counting. The fires have destroyed significant portions of Maui's infrastructure, including the city of Lahaina, which was almost completely leveled. The sanctuary of the historic Lahaina United Methodist Church was lost to fire. Reportedly no church members were lost, though many have been displaced. They and others in Maui will spend the next weeks and months trying to assess the damage. It will take years for them to rebuild.

As scripture reminds us, "The prayers of the righteous are powerful." Please hold the people of Maui in prayer as they grieve the loss of life and try to put their lives back together. And please consider helping with relief efforts by donating to the

[Lahaina Relief Fund.](#)

Pray with me.

Gracious and loving God, embrace all of those who mourn the loss of their loved ones because of the wildfires in Maui. Help those who are now homeless and all who are working toward recovery. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Blessings,

Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai

ADVICE FROM A
Sunflower:

BE BRIGHT,
SUNNY AND
POSITIVE.
Spread
seeds of
happiness
RISE, SHINE,
AND HOLD YOUR
HEAD HIGH.



August 27 Outdoor Service



Grace UMC Council

Unofficial Minutes from August 28, 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 (UFW), Krystal Ness (SPRC), Cathy Hermanson (rec. secretary)

Jonathan offered prayer and Gloria opened the meeting.

Claudia/Patsy moved the June minutes be accepted. Motion carried.

Finance: Becky reported we continue to be in good shape financially. Nearly have all apportionments paid for 2023. Budgets for all committees are due on September 20th. Endowment Fund has had positive growth.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Jonathan reported he will be attending Circuit Training and a Circuit meeting in the next few days. He will be married on Saturday, Oct. 7 – we will need Pulpit Supply on October 8 and 15 – Nate may take one of those days and Jonathan will speak with retired clergy. He and Becky will host a wedding reception on October 29th for church family. He reported Story City Trunk or Treat is set for Thursday, Oct. 26 from 4:30-6:00 downtown. Claudia/(Patsy) moved Grace Church participate again. Motion carried. Education will provide leadership. Must reserve space by Oct. 5. Charge Conference is set for Sunday, November 5th at Collegiate Methodist. Roland-Story Community Thanksgiving service set for Sunday, November 19 at St. Petri – Matt Soderstrum will speak.

Committee Reports: Ministry Areas

Worship: Worship didn't meet in July.

Christian Education: Gini reported Sunday school rooms are ready, materials are in and postcards set to go out. Jonathan will facilitate "Five Marks of a Methodist" youth and adult study. Rhonda will do an early Advent study in Oct-Nov

Missions – Gloria reported: Mission Brunch dates have been set for 2023-24 – will be submitted to office.

Loaves & Fishes – 10 volunteers served 24 families/85 individuals in July. Next serve
Sept. 23

Meals on Wheels – Claudia retiring – Cathy will step into position – we serve during
November.

Women of Faith Scandi Days – Bake Sale - \$1106; Pie - \$1491.78; Sandwich Line – 1560.08

Prayer Shawl – 2 shawls shared

Mat Loom purchased to be used to create mats from plastic grocery bags – Claudia will
head up efforts to get different church groups working on this fund raising
project possibility

Gloria outlined a proposed volunteer opportunity to help out Bethany Life, Cedar Place,
Timberland

UFW: Patsy reported UFW had a breakfast meeting July 12. Barb Meister from Goldserve Global ("Delivering Hope to the world after storms") spoke.

Committee Reports: Administrative Area

SPRC: Krystal reported members voted to give staff a pay raise in the new year. With much regret, reported Pastor Jonathan Cooney will retire as of July 1, 2024.

Leadership: Jonathan reported the nominations team will soon begin meeting to fill positions for 2024.

Trustees: Louis reported some tasks have been completed: Sanctuary carpet cleaned, gutters of church/parsonage cleaned, back step repairs, water in basement project still not resolved. Will do grading and install temporary window wells. Landscaping project delayed until water problem is figured out. Bids have been accepted for the Monitor & Lighting projects – now scheduling a time to complete work. A committee has been formed to review and amend Wedding Policies. Lighting - \$10K; Monitors - \$2300; Install electrical - \$4000

NEW Business: A new-to-us piano will be delivered to Fellowship Hall in October.

Becky/(Claudia)moved to adjourn meeting at 7:16. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be MONDAY, September 25 at 6:30,

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Hermanson, Rec Sec.



September 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:15 Worship 6:00 Axis	4 Labor Day Office Closed	5	6 5:00 Children's Bells 5:00 Compass 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	7	8	9
10 9:15 Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School	11 5:30 Worship Comm.	12	13 1:30 UWF 5:00 Compass 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	14	15	16 Immanuel Lutheran's 125th Anniversary Celebration 12-1 Church Cookbook Bake-Off 3-7 Block Party
17 8:00 Trustees 9:15 Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School	18	19	20 5:00 Children's Bells 5:00 Compass 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	21	22	23 9-12 Loaves and Fishes
24 9:15 Worship 10:15 Mission Brunch 10:30 Sunday School	25 5:45 Finance 6:30 Council	26	27 5:00 Compass 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	28	29	30