



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

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# The Grace Church Visitor

VOL. 75 NO. 4

OCTOBER 2023



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Grace = God's Riches At Christ's Expense

## October Birthdays

Jason Hofsommer	10/2
Sara Dappen	10/3
LeRoy Johnson	10/3
Amelia Franco	10/4
Lena Feil	10/6
Brian McNamara	10/10
Gene Schaeffer	10/10
Shirley Frandson	10/11
Kevin Holm	10/11
Riker Warwick	10/12
Cheryl Semler	10/13
Chuck Semler	10/13
Mark Barrett	10/16
Mason Schnurstein	10/16
Jori Witthuhn	10/20
Susan Mardock	10/21
Zach Tryon	10/22
Carroll Brekke	10/24
Addison Witthuhn	10/26
Norm Spurlock	10/27
Janet Mason	10/28
Ross Barclay	10/29
Kevin Larson	10/31

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

## October Lectionary

### October 1

Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

### October 8

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19;  
Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

### October 15

Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23;  
Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

### October 22

Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99;  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

### October 29

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17;  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

## From Our Pastor

Beloveds,

“When in danger, when in doubt, run in circles, scream and shout,” says one of my favorite quotes from a book I loved to read to my daughter when she was small. This is the time of year when we are quite aware of change. We find beauty and wonder in the fall season. It is my favorite time of year. But, of course, the seasons aren’t the only things that change with the rhythm and course of time. Sometimes we panic when change comes upon us suddenly.

By now many of you have heard that I am going to retire effective July 1, 2024. I’ve just spoken to the district superintendent, so I guess it’s sort-of official. Rev. Ron Carlson will meet with the staff-parish relations committee soon as a first step in the appointment process.

I have said I did not see myself serving *fulltime* past the age of 65. It’s an arbitrary number in today’s world, and early for some people. But the calendar is catching up with me.

I have the opportunity to begin this third stage of life with Becky, a wonderful woman who is eager to step into this new adventure with me. As some of you know, it is best to start out on these journeys while time is available.

There are certain physical conditions that are distracting. I want to pay more attention to my health.

It is likely that I will accept an appointment in retirement—serving parttime in a parish close to where Becky and I will be living. I will be able to “slow down” without coming to a complete stop, and serve as I feel I am able.

Most of us have been through a pastoral change at Grace before. I suppose a majority of us were EUB or United Methodist babies. Please pray for the superintendents and the bishop as they prayerfully discern the best pastor for our church’s future.

Your Servant for Christ’s Sake,

Jonathan

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

A church member invited his neighbor to church for the first time. The neighbor noticed that as the pastor got up to preach, he took off his watch and laid it on the pulpit. “What does that mean?” the neighbor whispered to his host. “Unfortunately, it doesn’t mean a thing,” the church member replied.

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.

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

#### Gini Michel - chr

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

### Mission Brunch

On Sunday, September 24, we had our first mission brunch for the school year. They served biscuits and gravy. They raised \$245.00 that will be given to In-Gathering. We hope you join us next month on October 22. Money raised will go to support Angel Tree next month.

### In-Gathering

We forgot to put out the quarter tube on September 24 to collect quarters to support In-Gathering. As a result, we'll have the quarter tube out on October 1 to collect money for In-Gathering. If you weren't able to give for In-Gathering at the brunch on September 24, you are welcome to give at any time, just specify on your offering that you'd like it to go to In-Gathering.



### October Volunteers

#### Sunday, October 1

Liturgist: Gail Remis  
Tech: Kurt Carlson  
Ushers: Hubert and Raejean Bickelhaupt

#### Sunday, October 8

Liturgist: Kurt Carlson  
Tech: Chris Feil  
Ushers: Gini and Caleb Michel

#### Sunday, October 15

Liturgist: Becky Barclay  
Tech: ?  
Ushers: Stephani and Tori Fournier

#### Sunday, October 22

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

Clean Up: Judy Andrew  
1 Gal. 2% Milk: Lorio Lounsberry  
1 Gal. OJ: Janet Mason  
1 Gal. OJ: Ray and Betty Hults

#### Sunday, October 29

Liturgist: Cathy Hermanson  
Tech: Louis Reeder  
Ushers: The Hart Family

#### Bulletins & Children's Clipboards:

October 5: Gini Michel  
October 12: Pauline Kokemiller  
October 19: Cheryl Semler  
October 26: Gini Michel

#### Newsletter:

October 26: Gini Michel

### Preaching Schedule in October

Jonathan will be out of town for a couple of weeks in October. The pulpit will be filled those Sundays by Rev. David Crow (a retired United Methodist pastor) on October 8 and Nate Warwick, a gifted layperson from our own congregation, on October 15. As always, we will be blessed by our wonderful music ministry on these Sundays, as well. Please support these worship services while Jonathan is gone. If there are any pastoral needs between October 6 and 18, please contact the office.





### Our Prayers

Becky Barclay—the loss of her sister; Donyel Caruth—sister Tawnya has cancer; Joel Chambers—Mom is having surgery; Becky Coons—friend, Julie Leonard, undergoing treatments; Sara Dappen; Doug Feil; Val Gregori and family—loss of a cousin and son in an auto accident; Loretta Parker; Paula Sampson—Cancer; The Taylors; The Gilbert community on the loss of one of their young people

### Our Gifts

**Offering Sept. 3—Sept. 24:**  
\$11,359.00

### Our Presence

**Attendance Sept. 3—Sept. 24**  
**Worship:** 312 Total/78 Avg.

### Our Witness

We appreciate our September liturgists: Del Johnston, Lauren Crawford, Becky Barclay, and Gail Remis

Thank you to Judy Andrew for providing music on September 3 for our final week of summer music.

### Our Service

Thank you to the trustees for all your hard work on completing updates for the church.

Thank you to the new tech team for helping us get a new part of our service up and running. We hope you find the new monitor system a pleasant enhancement to the service.

### Tech Team

We have put together a tech team to help run power point on Sunday mornings. If this is something you're interested in helping with talk to Jonathan or contact the office. We've tried to make it as simple as possible for you to run and this is a great way for you to serve the church.

### Contact Information

Update  
your  
Information!



We are discovering that a lot of phone numbers and email addresses are incorrect in our church records. We are working on updating people's contact information as a result. If you would help us out by writing your current contact information (address, phone number, email) in the attendance pad on Sunday morning or emailing the office ([office@grace-umc.com](mailto:office@grace-umc.com)) with your contact information, we would appreciate it.

### Loaves and Fishes

Saturday, September 23 was the date for Grace church to volunteer at Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. 13 volunteers helped to make it a very successful activity. We were able to help 20 families (a total of 62 individuals). A sincere thank you to everyone who helped by picking up donations and helping with various tasks on Saturday morning.

The group did notice that there were numerous empty spaces on the shelves. Money and food donations are certainly needed and appreciated.

Out next opportunity to volunteer is Saturday, December 9.

### Reception



Anyone who would like to attend is invited to pastor Jonathan's wedding on October 7. The church will host a reception for them on Sunday, October 29 during fellowship time at 10:15am. Plan to come celebrate their marriage on that Sunday.



### Meals on Wheels

Hi Friends,

I am taking on our Meals on Wheels ministry for Claudia Pauk this year. She has done a fantastic job for us for years and I hope I can measure up to the example she has set! The routine will be much as it has been in recent years. At this point there are two delivery routes in Story City and both are pretty simple and easily accomplished in about 30 minutes. We will serve for the month of November Monday thru Friday except Thanksgiving and the Friday following. The meals will be delivered to the north door at the church in a hot thermal bag and a cold thermal bag for each route. You will need to deliver items from both bags to each stop. (I didn't realize that the first time I delivered and had to double deliver a couple stops when I caught on!) I will have a sign-up calendar available in the narthex at the church beginning October 1 for you to claim the day(s) you would be willing to serve. Thank you in advance for your help this year!

Cathy Hermanson

### Summer Camping 2023

Here is a wrap up of camps from this summer:

13 church families (+ 1 friend) participated

Wesley Woods: 3 students + 1 friend

Lake Okoboji: 2 students

Little Wall Lake: 5 families (plus all church Sun. service with potluck after)

Riverside Lutheran: 3 students

Boy Scouts Camp Mitigwa: 2 students

Boy Scouts Virginia Summit Camp: 2 students + 1 parent

Music Camp: 1 student

Grace Church Camp Policy:

Methodist camp: 100% of registration

Another faith-based camp: 75% registration

Non Methodist attending with Methodist member: 50% of registration

Non faith-based camp: 50% of registration



### 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 on October 29 at 10:15  
In the Fellowship Hall

### Crop Walk



Annual Crop Walk to End Hunger  
Sunday, October 8th 1:30

Ada Hayden Heritage Park (note change of venue)

You may organize a team or walk on your own.

CROP Hunger Walk is a community fundraising event for Church World Service.

Register at:

[crophungerwalk.org](http://crophungerwalk.org)

Checks payable to CWS/CROP

More information on the north bulletin board in the narthex.

On Wednesday September 13, 2023 15 members of United Women of Faith met at 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall of Grace UMC. Patsy opened the meeting with a bible verse followed by a prayer and the reading of the Purpose. We sang "Go Tell It On The Mountain".

Raejean presented the Mission Moment with several excerpts from the Response Magazine. She expressed how helpful and insightful the magazine is.

Treasurers report was given by Sharla. Our current balance on hand as of September 13 is \$5248.68. Report was also given on the proceeds from the Scandinavian Days. Total income from that event was \$4297.36. Motion was made Gloria to give \$1560 to the trustees. Seconded by Mindy. Motion carried.

Erma reported that Scandinavian Days will be held again in 2024. Doug has again said he will donate the pork for the sandwiches.

There were no minutes to read from the last meeting.

There was no additional old business.

New Business: Patsy reported that Bidwell and Hawthorne Hill have merged and are now called Families Forward. Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> there will be a light supper and guest speaker at the Colo church. RSVP was requested by September 28.

Report was given by Claudia on the loom purchased from Midwest Mission in Jefferson. She demonstrated how the mats are made, the supplies needed and that the mats will be given back to the Midwest Mission in Jefferson. They are shipped overseas as well as being used locally by the homeless. All scraps from the bags are also used to make benches. This will hopefully be an ongoing project. She also hoped the group could travel to Jefferson and volunteer some time on their projects.

Jerri presented her program by telling us about the struggles she went through while she was in Colorado. After suffering from a car accident, she went through a lot of surgeries and therapy to get to where she is today. It was a very inspirational talk about how God was there to get her through.

Next meeting will be held October 11. Gail Remis will have the Mission Moment, Terry Gustason will have the program and also is hostess.

Submitted by acting secretary, Claudia Pauk

## An Autumn Prayer

**Abba, Father, the trees are ablaze with your glory.**

**The seasons change, but you never do.**

**You are always beautiful, in the green and freshness of spring as in the golds and reds and chills of autumn.**

**Make me like you.**

**Let my life reflect your beauty, season after season, as the calendar of my life turns and turns and turns.**

**The trees are letting go of this year's foliage.**

**Help me let go of both blessings and burdens, and surrender them both to your loving care.**

**Fallen leaves pattern the ground with variety. So design my own fallings and failings into whatever design will please you most. In Jesus' name, I pray,**

### Children's Bells

On October 18, children's bells will have their fall party. They will have rehearsal that day from 5:00 -5:30 and their fall party will follow. They will have hot dogs and chips for supper and play some fun games. They will finish up at 6:15.



### Fall Laity Day

Fall Laity Day with Bishop Kennetha will be on Saturday, October 14, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Ames, Iowa. There will be treats and fellowship upon arrival and a break for lunch and conversation at noon. The following will be the topics of discussion for the day.

First, expect a bold and spiritually profound message from Bishop Kennetha as she leads us to think about what it means to be a United Methodist Christian in 2023.

Next will be a discussion on Christian Nationalism, why everyone who is Christian needs to learn more about it, and if it threatens religion and democracy.

You will learn about Fresh Expressions and how it is a new way to find, connect, and welcome new people and learn what this might mean for your church.

Hear what is next for the United Methodist Church from some of our General Conference delegates about the *Regionalization Plan*. Many anticipate its passage, providing for more autonomous decision-making by United Methodists in different parts of the world.

Finally, a Closing Communion will bind us together and send us back into our varied worlds.

Fall Laity Day with Bishop Kennetha is FREE and sponsored by the Iowa Conference Board of Laity. Registration is not required but would be **very helpful** for planning meals. [Register Here](#)

### Downtown Trick or Treat

Grace will be handing out candy again at the downtown trick or treat on October 26 from 4:30-6:00 pm. We hope to see everyone in their costumes that evening.

### Charge Conference

Charge conference is November 5 at 1pm at Collegiate UMC this year. Anyone is encouraged to attend. If you have forms to fill out, if you don't have them already, you should be getting them any day now.

### Youth Update

Hello all,

I have been thrilled to see your kids again! They are so much fun to hang out with on Wednesday nights. We have consistently seen at least 15 Kids every week which has been so cool to see! I sent an email out with the meal sign ups and still as of this moment no one signed up so feel free to hop on and sign up to cook for us!

Axis has had a bit of a slow start, but I feel that it'll pick up with the new changes in place. Axis is meeting every week from 4-5:30 as opposed to what it was which was every other week from 6-7:30. So to be clear, we are now meeting **Every week from 4:00-5:30 on Sundays**.

I am working on a few fall activities for the kids including a center grove trip that will include both high school and middle school and I am also trying to talk with the new youth director from Immanuel as he's a buddy of mine from camp about bringing Immanuel's youth with us! Another thing I am working on is another retreat for the middle school where we will head up to riverside Friday after school and come back Saturday afternoon. When I have a date squared away on that I will push out more information.

I appreciate you all for your continuous support of this ministry!

Best,

Joel Chambers



Joel Chambers, our youth minister, joined us at church on Sunday, September 24 and gave an update on his youth ministry.



## Pictures of Grace



The kids helped bless some prayer shawls on September 17.



Everyone who helps with our education program was recognized on September 10.



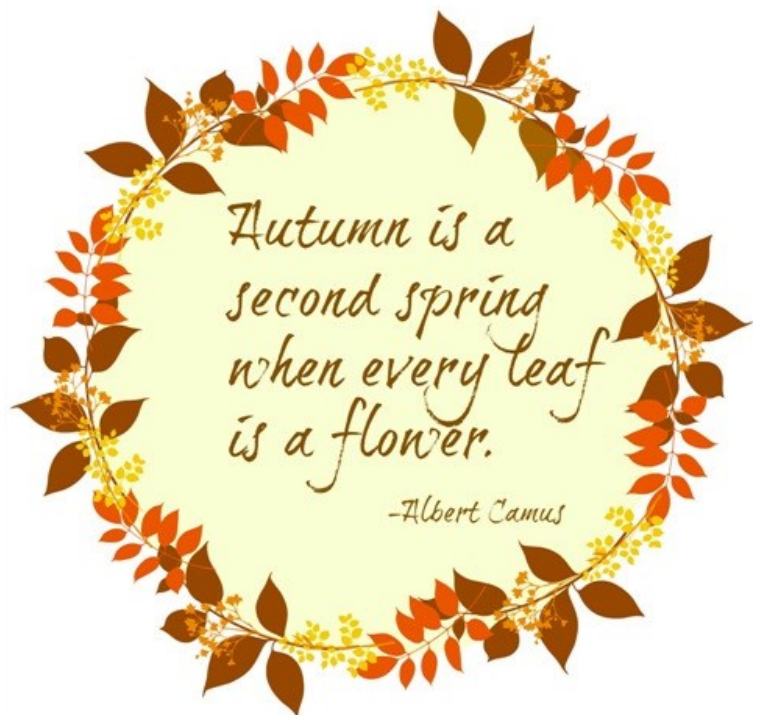
Judy Andrew blessed us with her singing on September 3.



We enjoyed hearing the children's bells play on Sunday, September 24.



The children pray with Jonathan at the end of his children's message.





## Grace UMC Council

### Unofficial Minutes from September 25, 2023 Meeting

**Present:** Gloria Sampson (Chair, Missions), Becky Barclay (Finance); Jim Hassebrock (Trustee), Pastor Jonathan, Cheryl Semler (Worship), Gini Michel (Education), Krystle Ness (SPRC), Cathy Hermanson (rec. secretary)

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

**Cheryl/Krystle moved the August minutes be accepted as corrected. Motion carried.**

**Finance:** Becky reported we have completed our apportionments obligations for 2023. The Conference has not given us our 2024 apportionment target so we will learn what the budget will look like at the Oct. meeting.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Jonathan reported a tech team has been recruited for running the monitor slides on Sunday mornings. It was used for the first time on Sept. 24. Shannon will develop a schedule to rotate 7-8 volunteers to serve on Sunday mornings. Pastor is getting married on Oct 7 and will be away for the two weeks following. David Crow a retired pastor from Ames will lead worship on Oct. 8. Louis Cox (Assoc Pastor Collegiate) is our pastoral support Oct. 7, 8, 9. October 10-13 pastoral support will be provided by Amanda Gordon (Sr. Pastor at First in Ames). Nate Warwick will lead worship on Oct. 15 and Mary Bellon (Sr Pastor Collegiate) will provide pastoral support Oct. 14-18. Our Charge Conference is set for 1 pm on Sunday, Nov. 5 at Collegiate. On Nov 12, Kathleen Yarnell (Director UM Foundation) will give the morning message and lead a discussion during the Sunday school hour.

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

**Worship:** Cheryl reported satisfaction with the August outside worship and potluck meal. The 10:00 start time seemed to be appreciated. All Saints Sunday is Nov. 5 with 6 souls to be remembered. Advent Candlelighters are being considered. G.R.A.C.E. teams have decided which team is responsible for each December Sunday. Worship Comm recommends moving the November Brunch to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday (Nov. 19) to avoid Christmas tree set up on November 26. (Missions Comm has accepted the suggestion). Worship Committee is pleased and proud of Jarod Hart for his work as accompanist for the Chancel Choir.

**Christian Education:** Gini reported 21 children and youth in Sunday school – no HS class as there is little interest. Camps Report – 13 families and 1 friend took the opportunity to attend camp over the summer:

Wesley Woods – three members plus friend; Okoboji – 2 members; Little Wall Lake – 5 families camped + worship and picnic following; Riverside – 3 members; Music Camp – 1 member; Area Scout Camp – 2 members; Virginia Summit Scout camp – 2 youth plus 1 parent

Rhonda Hampton will begin Advent Study during Adult Sunday school in mid-October.

**Missions** – Gloria reported: Loaves & Fishes – 13 volunteers (33 vol hours) served 20 families/65 individuals on Sept. 23. Mission Brunch on Sept. 24 raised \$245.86 for Ingathering. The quarter tube will be out on October 1 to try to raise a bit more money for the Ingathering.

**UFW:** Gini reported UFW had a demonstration of working the new mat loom from Claudia. Anyone is welcome to learn how to weave and participate in this new mission opportunity. The mission committee bought the loom.

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

**SPRC:** Krystle reported members approved a budget recommendation that was submitted to Finance. At our Oct. 9 meeting DS Ron Carlson will join us to begin the process of preparing to welcome a new pastor on July 1, 2024.

**Leadership:** Jonathan is pleased with the progress on putting together the leadership roster for 2024. Memorial and Endowment Committees are of particular interest going forward.

**Trustees:** Jim noted the monitors are up and have been used one Sunday. Looking into adjusting the mount angle. Temporary wood window wells have been installed on the east side of the church. They will be replaced with permanent stone wells in the spring. Grading away from the building and tile installation have been done to take care of the recent flooding concerns. Backstep update and gutter cleaning have been completed – waiting for the bills. Sanctuary Lighting will happen in Oct. – may take more than 1 week. Trustee budget request went up 7.6 % for 2024.

**Becky/(Jim)moved to adjourn meeting at 7:08. Motion carried.**

Next meeting will be **MONDAY, October 23 at 6:30,**

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



# October 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:15 Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 4:00 Axis	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5:00 Children's Bells 6:00 Compass 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Wedding Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 1:00 Jonathan Cooney and Becky Coons Wedding
<b>8</b> 9:15 Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 4:00 Axis	<b>9</b> 5:30 Worship Comm. 6:30 SPRC	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 1:30 UWF 6:00 Compass 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:00 Trustees 9:15 Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 4:00 Axis	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 5:00-6:15 Children's Bells - Fall party 6:00 Compass 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:15 Missions 9:15 Worship 10:15 Mission Brunch 10:30 Sunday School 4:00 Axis	<b>23</b> 5:45 Finance 6:30 Council	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:00 Compass 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	<b>26</b> 4:30—6:00 Downtown Trick or Treat	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:15 Worship 10:15 Wedding Reception 10:30 Sunday School 4:00 Axis	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				