This Week a Grace

January 11, 2024

This Week at Grace

This week at Grace Pastor Jonathan will use John 1:43-51 as inspiration for his message. George Janvrin, Rick and Grace Welke will usher. Lauren Crawford will serve as liturgist. Chris Feil will be running tech. You can see and hear our worship services LIVE on our Facebook page @storycitygrace or through our website (which will link you to our Facebook page) – grace-umc.com.



Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 14

9:15 A.M. Worship

10:15 A.M. Fellowship

10:30 A.M. Sunday School

Wednesday, January 16

6:00 P.M. Compass

7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir

Sunday, January 21

8:00 A.M. Trustees

9:15 A.M. Worship

10:15 A.M. Fellowship

10:30 A.M. Sunday School

Monday, January 22

5:45 P.M. Finance

6:30 P.M. Council



In Our Prayers

Dorothy Carbaugh; Donyel Caruth—sister Tawnya has cancer; Cathy Hermanson—Cancer; Kevin and Linda Larson—Daughter, Jamie, has cancer; Loretta Parker; Tep Reeder—Cousin in Kentucky had a stroke; Paula Sampson—Cancer; Gene and Erma Schaeffer—family member, Kurt, has cancer; The Taylors; Beckey Whitthun—Nephew's newborn twins health issues; Community of Perry

Capital Campaign

The trustees have approved a three year capital campaign to raise \$225,000. The money raised will go to help replace the church roof, repave the parking lot, update the HVAC systems, and add handicap accessible doors. If you have any questions, contact Louis Reeder (402-641-6722) or Jim Hassebrock (515-708-0946).

Adult Sunday School

The adult Sunday school study, *Unrelenting Grace: A United Methodist Way of Life* led by Jonathan begins this Sunday. Plan to join us for this new study.

Dear Members of the lowa Annual Conference, We are, by now, all aware of what happened at Perry High School on Thursday morning. We witnessed a horrible act of violence as a young man, a child himself, opened fire on other children, teachers, and staff. The trauma to those children, their families, their teachers and administrators, and to that whole community will be deep and long lasting. My heart is broken for them and us. I know that all of our hearts are broken, and sometimes, repeated heartbreak tempts us to lose hope.

Indeed, it is hard to have hope when so many have become numb to the constant drumbeat of these shootings. But we must have hope, even in the face of tragedy, because to hope is an act of faith.

My hope comes from what I witnessed this Thursday as pastors and laity in our annual conference came together to respond to the tragedy. By 6:00 p.m., we had gathered at First United Methodist Church in Perry for a prayer vigil planned by Pastor Jon Williams, District Superintendent Ron Carlson, and the Living Out Amazing Ministry (LOAM) Circuit. The church opened its doors, and members from the community came to pray, share tears, and find comfort in the arms of Christian community.

My hope is in Christ and his church—in the faithful Jesus-followers in the lowa Annual Conference who suited up and showed up for the community of Perry. My hope is in the ways in which we will continue to embrace and pray for that community. My hope is in the ways in which we will continue to advocate for a better world for all of our children.

As the Apostle Paul once wrote, "Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us," Romans 5:5.

God's love has been poured into all of your hearts. And you did not disappoint. You acted in the hope that your prayers, presence, gifts, witness, and service could make a difference. I know that it did and will. Thank you!

In Christ,

Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai

Youth Update

Grace, Bergen Lutheran, and St. Petri Lutheran are forging ahead with their search for a leader for youth ministry. In the meantime, church members and pastors are stepping up to the plate. We are not holding separate meetings for the older youth, but encouraging them to attend Compass on Wednesdays at St. Petri from 6-7:30 and help out. We hope that on January 31 the youth and interested adults will meet at Loaves and Fishes to help sort and restock. As a part of this effort, church members are asked to make contributions. Loaves and Fishes is requesting wide egg noodles, Mandarin oranges, tomato soup, brownie mix, pancake mix and syrup, and Ramen noodles.





