



GRACE UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH  
PO BOX 67  
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STORY CITY, IA 50248

# The Grace Church Visitor

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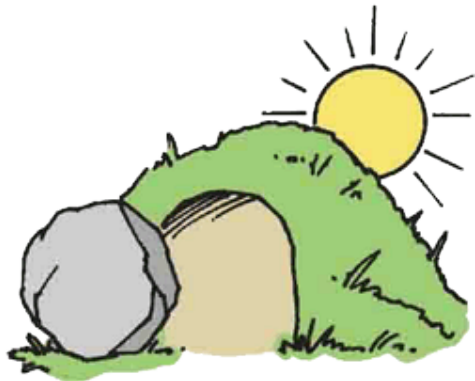
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Grace = God's Riches At Christ's Expense

## April Birthdays

Angie Schnurstein	4/1
Ellie Rasmusson	4/2
Adam Crawford	4/5
Louis Reeder	4/9
Kylie Spencer	4/9
Eric Hart	4/10
Tori Fournier	4/12
Carlos Remis	4/16
George Janvrin Jr.	4/20
Charlie Fournier	4/21
Mike Jensen	4/21
Dee McNamara	4/23
Sarah Hults	4/25

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



## April Lectionary

### April 7

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2;  
John 20:19-31

### April 14

Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7;  
Luke 24:36b-48

### April 21

Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24;  
John 10:11-18

### April 28

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21;  
John 15:1-8

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,

After several failed attempts to hold the 2020 general conference of the United Methodist Church the plan is to hold the next meeting of our denomination's policy-making body April 23-May 3 in Charlotte, North Carolina. The aborted 2020 and 2022 general conferences were to be held in Minneapolis and I had signed up to be a volunteer. COVID-19 and difficulties obtaining visas for some of our members made these meetings difficult if not impossible to bring to fruition. A world-wide Zoom call with critical voting is not practical. Needless to say, I am not going to Charlotte.

I don't think much of substance will come out of the first few days of the meeting. My understanding is that committee work is done before proposals make it to the floor for discussion. National news outlets are bound to cover it. I would also recommend the United Methodist News Service at [www.umnews.org](http://www.umnews.org). There is more information at [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org) and I am sure one or both of these services will stream the plenary sessions. On the official general conference website you can subscribe to the *Daily Christian Advocate* ([General Conference 2020 \(resourceumc.org\)](http://GeneralConference2020(resourceumc.org))

The church held a special general conference in 2019 to address LGBTQ+ issues and although that meeting resulted in a reinforcement of the traditional language in our Book of Discipline, not everyone was exceptionally pleased with the outcome. As many of you know, it led to a disaffiliation protocol which allowed many of our churches and clergy to leave the church. I have been told we can expect more of that discussion this year, too. Other topics should include a proposed plan for regionalization which is meant to allow our churches and conferences to operate more effectively within their various settings globally. Some of this already occurs as the *Book of Discipline* requires the United Methodist Church to obey local laws.

Let us be in prayer for all of these people as they join in prayer, discussion, and mission.

Your Servant for Christ's Sake,

Jonathan

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

An older couple decided to tie the knot, even though many of their family and friends were concerned about their advanced age. During the wedding ceremony, the pastor announced that it was time to recite their vows. The groom said, "A, E, I, O, U."

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

### Gene and Erma Schaeffer - chr

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

## Save the Date

The all church camp out will be August 22—August 25 at Little Wall Lake. The church service on August 25 will be at the shelter house at Little Wall Lake. Stay tuned for more details later in the summer.

## Thank you!

Thank you to the person or persons who donated a stack of birthday cards to the church. They were lovely cards and much appreciated!

## Thank you!

Dear Wonderful People at Grace,  
We are feeling extremely blessed by your wonderful donation to the Norseman Food Pantry.

We continue to see such a need in our community, and your donation will help us to meet the needs of those who benefit from our help.

Thank you so much,  
Norseman Food Pantry

## April Volunteers

### Sunday, April 7

Liturgist: Del Johnston  
Tech: Krystle Ness  
Ushers: Nate and Malinda Warwick and family

### Sunday, April 14

Liturgist: Gail Remis  
Tech: Chris Feil  
Ushers: Chrissy Semler Blue,  
Toran and Natalie Rasmussen and family

### Sunday, April 21

Liturgist: Gail Remis  
Tech: ?  
Ushers: Brian and Dee McNamara

### Sunday, April 28

Liturgist: Kurt Carlson  
Tech: The Warwicks  
Ushers: Adam and Valerie Hubert and family  
Brunch:  
Juice: Linda McVicker  
Milk: Alyssa Loots  
Clean Up: Judy Brekke, Erma Schaeffer  
Servers: Adam and Lauren Crawford

## Plastic Bags

We are running low on plastic grocery bags to use to weave mats for the Midwest Missions Sleeping Mat Project. If you have extra bags around your house, you can donate them to the church for this project. Volunteers weave mats from the grocery bags. Those mats are then given to unhoused people in both Iowa and all around the globe to have a more comfortable (and dry) place to sleep.

## All Church Clean Up

The Trustees have set our **All-Church Spring Clean-Up Days** for **Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – noon**. If the weather doesn't cooperate our back up days will be April 12 and 13<sup>th</sup>. Plan to join us on those days and help make the church and church grounds sparkle.



### Our Prayers

Dorothy Carbaugh; Donyel Caruth—sister Tawnya has cancer; Doug Feil; George Janvrin—recovery; Sharla Mander—Friend, Elizabeth, had emergency surgery; Loretta Parker; Louis Reeder—recovery from surgery; Louis and Tep Reeder—granddaughter Aubrey; Carlos Remis—health; The Taylors

### Our Gifts

**Offering March 3—March 24:**  
\$17,792.00

### Our Presence

**Attendance March 3—March 24**  
**Worship:** 304 Total/ 76 Avg.

### Our Witness

- ◆ We appreciate our March liturgists: Kurt Carlson, Dave Doolittle, Del Johnston, Becky Barclay, and Gail Remis
- ◆ Thank you to our tech team who ran the Power Point in February: The Feils, Louis Reeder, Craig and Savannah Jensen, Krystle Ness, and The Warwicks
- ◆ Thank you to everyone who served as liturgist during the Wednesday evening devotions during Lent: Gloria Sampson, Claudia Pauk, and Terry Gustason

### Our Service

- ◆ Thank you to everyone working on repairs and updates to the youth room and chapel. We appreciate your hard work.



### Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Wednesday night devotions during Lent. We had on average 20-25 people attend each week. It is our hope it was a time of peaceful reflection for you. Thank you to all the pastors who came to give us a brief message. We enjoyed hearing what you had to say. Pastors who spoke were: Rev. Jonathan Cooney, Rev. Nikoli Falenschek, Rev. Maureen Howard, Rev. Joy Edeker and Rev. John Sheahan.

### Zoom Bible Study

This Fall, after labor day, I will host an online Zoom Bible Study over the books of Peter.

1Peter \$18 — 8 lessons

1 Peter How to Stand firm When Tested

Are you prepared for suffering? Will trials and persecutions reveal your faith and bring glory to God? Listen to what Peter says to believers enduring tribulations.

2 Peter \$14 — 6 lessons

2 Peter - How to Be Kept From Falling - Precept Workbook (ESV)

In a day when false teachers are leading countless people astray, to live effectively for Christ we need to know the truth. Learn to live effectively and grow in spiritual discernment.

This is a brief overview of the study.

I can be contacted at email,

4mcn.nana@gmail.com or cell at 515-291-8638

Thank you,

Dee McNamara

### Mission Brunch



On Sunday, March 17, we had our monthly mission brunch. They raised over \$676.74 that will go to Heifer International. You may scan the QR code to contribute to this mission through donor box. Thank you for your generous contributions for our mission. We hope you join us next month on April 28. Money raised will go to help Mobility World Wide.



Nova Thornton has accepted the position of youth minister for Grace United Methodist and Bergen and St. Petri Lutheran churches beginning April 1. Nova grew up in United Methodist and Lutheran congregations in the Des Moines area. She is an elementary education major at Iowa State University. In addition to her training for the classroom, Nova is also preparing for her third summer on staff at Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp in Story City where she has been assigned progressively more responsible and visible roles in leadership in youth ministry. Our experiment in shared ministry is working, so let's encourage our young people to support Nova and her work among us!

Grace United Methodist Women of Faith met at 1:30 p.m. on March 13, 2024 in the fellowship hall. Seventeen ladies were in attendance. Gail kindly offered a choice of an "Easter Egg" that was a crocheted dish scrubber.

Patsy opened the meeting with a verse from Joshua 1:25, then she led us in a shared prayer.

Prayer requests for Marilyn Webster, George Janvrin, Carlos Remis and Louis Reeder. As a group we sang "Let Us Break Bread Together" and recited the "Purpose" of WOF.

Mission Moment, presented by Gloria A., used our Call to Prayer and Self Denial

Treasurer's Report was given by Sharla. Balance on hand February 14, 2024 \$657.49, pledges \$405.00, Balance on Hand March 12, 2024 \$1062.49

Tepricia R. read the February minutes, provided by Terry G., and were approved.

Claudia gave us much information about the Mat Project. Mid-west Mission is based in Jefferson IA. Mats are made on hand crafted looms and the plastic trash bags are trimmed to the appropriate size to be woven through the loom. There is a bike ministry in Des Moines, that took 50 mats to hand out to the homeless. Midwest Mission will be speaking at our April meeting. It was agreed that \$25 would go to Allera Mission and \$100 to Midwest Mission.

Discussed was an idea about meeting at Timberland or Cedar Place. More discussion will follow at future meetings.

Patsy laid out cards to be sent to our shut-ins, we were asked to take one and send it.

Program—Patsy talked about how we are rooted in Family, Friends, Work and church using three paper dolls, attached together, labeling them as saints. Left figure is who influenced you, middle figure is yourself and third figure is someone you feel you've influenced in the same positive way.

April 10th is our next meeting.

Mission Moment—Pauline Kokemiller

Program—Sharla Mander

Hostess—Raejean Bicklehaupt

Submitted by Tepricia Reeder

*The Easter Lilies are shared this Easter in Remembrance and Honor of:*

**Russell and Diane Clayberg**  
by Mark and Cathy Hermanson

**Gary and Renee Hubert**  
by Adam and Valerie Hubert



*Alleluia!*  
**HE IS ALIVE!**



Pictures of Grace



Because  
He  
Lives





## Apportionments

Dear Rev. Cooney and Story City, Grace United Methodist Church,

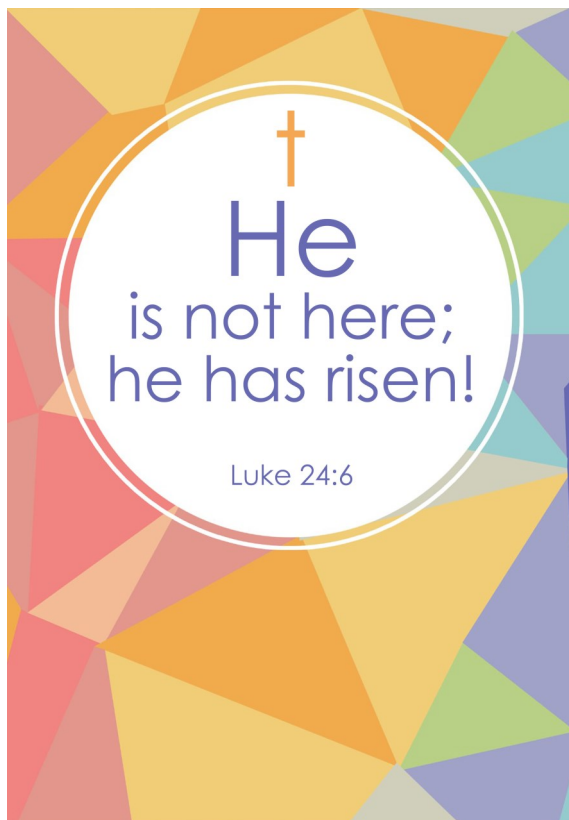
God's grace and peace to you! I am writing today to celebrate that your congregation has paid 100% of apportioned giving for 2023! I am so proud.

Your congregation is a leader and an example for the Riverview Park District, and I want to thank you for the faithfulness that has made your 2023 giving possible.

I am grateful for your continued support of the ministries of the United Methodist Church here in the Iowa Annual Conference and throughout our global denomination. As we move forward as proud United Methodists, your congregation, and our district as a whole, have demonstrated that we believe that we can do more together than we can apart, and that when we pool our connectional giving resources, we believe that we can transform the world. Your congregation's giving allowed our district to give away \$25,000 of grant monies to local ministries, right here in the district, through the Matthew 25 fund. On the Conference level, your connectional giving has helped support congregations that went through a challenging disaffiliation season and are now in a position to rebuild and reenergize their commitment to the United Methodist Church. On a global level, your congregation's connectional giving continues supports the administrative costs for ministries like UMCOR, which shows up as first responders nationally and globally when there are disasters, which allows for all direct donations to UMCOR to go directly to the individuals and communities impacted.

Your congregation's commitment to the mission and ministries of the Iowa Annual Conference and the greater connection is evidence of your belief that the world needs the United Methodist Church, and I honor that commitment. I pray that as we continue to grow as a Riverview Park People, that your hearts may once again be strangely warmed; that we will not keep quiet about the good work that God is doing in and amongst us; and that we continue to grow in our connection to each other and our local communities for the sake of God's love.

I Am Because We Are,  
Ron Carlson, Riverview Park District Superintendent



### GOD'S LOVE DISPLAYED

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.  
- ROMANS 5:8 NIV

Graceful Giving Pledge Card

Dear Grace Church Members,

We hope this letter finds you well and filled with love and grace. As members of our church community, we have all experienced the countless ways in which Grace Church has touched our lives and helped us grow in our faith. From Sunday services, Bible studies and Sunday school, to fellowship events, various music programs and outreach programs, our church has been a source of strength, support, and inspiration for all of us.

As we look towards the future of our beloved church, we are excited to announce the launch of our new giving campaign, Graceful Giving. Our goal is to raise \$225,000 over the next three years to make much-needed improvements to our sanctuary, including roofing repairs, ADA accessibility upgrades, air conditioning improvements, and parking lot repairs. These upgrades will not only enhance the physical appearance of our church but also improve the overall experience for our members and visitors for the future.

We believe that by investing in the future of Grace Church, we are investing in the future of our community and the countless lives that our church touches. We have seen firsthand the impact that our church has had on the lives of so many, and we want to continue to be a beacon of hope, love, and grace for generations to come.

We ask for your support and generosity in this campaign, as every donation, no matter how big or small, will make a difference in the future of our church. Let us come together as a community and show our commitment to the mission and vision of Grace Church.

Thank you for your continued support, dedication, and love for our church. Together, we can make a difference and ensure that Grace Church remains a place of worship, fellowship, and grace for all who enter its doors.

Blessings to you all,

Louis Reeder, Jim Hassebrock, Becky and Dave Barclay, Chris Feil, Lorijo Lounsberry, Dan Webster

*Graceful Giving ~ Building for the Future*

Over 3 years, I (We) pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ 2024  
\$\_\_\_\_\_ 2025  
\$\_\_\_\_\_ 2026

For a TOTAL of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return pledge cards by April 30, 2024**



**Grace UMC Council**  
**Unofficial Minutes from March 25, 2024 Meeting**

**Present:** Pastor Jonathan, Becky Barclay (Finance), Jim Hassebrock (Trustees), Cheryl Semler (Worship) Patsy Jensen (UMF), Jan Feil (Missions), Lauren Crawford (SPRC), Gini Michel (Education)

\* Jonathan offered a prayer and then opened the meeting.

\* **Minutes:** Gini / Cheryl moved that the February minutes be accepted as written. Motion carried.

\* **Finance:** Becky reported the church is in great standing with our apportionments. The church received \$30,000 from our insurance company for the flood. Monies received from the February Brunch paid for the deductible. The Conference contacted the church regarding their Scholar Camping Campaign. After discussion, Patsy made a motion & Jim seconded to give \$500.00 toward the campaign. Motion carried. The money will be taken out of the church's Camp Fund.

\* **Pastor's Report:** Pastors from Bergen Lutheran, St. Petri, and Grace interviewed someone for the Youth Leadership position. The individual was offered and accepted the position.

**Committee Reports: Ministry Areas**

\* **Worship:** The GRACE TEAMS appreciate Shannon folding the weekly bulletins and monthly newsletter as well as changing the activity sheets to the children's clipboards. Transition from Pastor Jonathan to Pastor Jena is July 1, with Pastor Jonathan serving until then. Parsonage move be the 2nd week of June. Pastor Jonathan will talk to Pastor Jena about a Sunday service in the parsonage backyard this summer.

\* **Education:** We're in our final quarter of Sunday school. At the end of our Sunday school year, all materials stored in the Fellowship Hall will be moved to the Early Childhood - 1st room in preparation for Scandinavian Days. 1 family has registered their children for Wesley Woods Camp. The Little Wall Lake camping (6 camp sites) and Sunday church service is scheduled for Aug. 22 - 25.

\* **Missions:** The March Brunch + the Quarter Tube raised \$676.74. This money went toward the Heifer Project. Monies raised at the upcoming April Brunch (French toast) will go toward the World-Wide Mobility Project. Grace Church is in charge of Loaves & Fishes April 27.

\* **UWF:** It was suggested that the church invite Pastor Jena to Scandinavian Days.

**Committee Reports: Administration Areas**

\* **SPRC:** The Ministry Appraisal Report is being prepared and due May 1. It was suggested that SPRC spearhead (with help from parishioners) "Thank You Pastor Jonathan" and "Welcome, Pastor Jena" celebration

\* **Trustees:** The church has received insurance monies to pay for some of our expenses, such as replacing furniture. Chris Feil is spearheading the floor replacement (planks) in the Chapel. Letters for the Grace Church Capital Campaign fundraiser will be going out soon.

**Meeting adjourned: 7:05 p.m.**

**Next meeting: April 22, 2024**

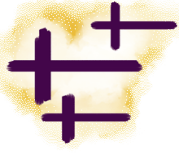
**Respectfully submitted, Gini Michel**



A lot can Happen  
THREE



# April 2024



HE IS RISEN  
*alleluia*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 5:00 Children's Bells 6:00 Compass 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	4 Shannon out of office	5 Church Clean Up Days	6
7 9:15 Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School	8 5:30 Worship Comm. 6:30 SPRC	9	10 1:30 UWF 6:00 Compass 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	11	12 Back Up Church Clean Up	13
14 9:15 Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School	15	16	17 5:00 Children's Bells 6:00 Compass 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	18 6:30 Capital Campaign	19	20
21 8:00 Trustees 9:15 Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School	22 5:45 Finance 6:30 Council	23	24 6:00 Compass 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	25	26	27 9:30-12:00 Loaves and Fishes
28 8:15 Missions 9:15 Worship 10:15 Mission Brunch 10:30 Sunday School	29	30				