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The Grace Church Visitor

VOL. 75 NO. 9

MARCH 2024



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Grace = God's Riches At Christ's Expense

March Birthdays

Lilyah Berry	3/2
Alex Flaspohler	3/5
Nate Warwick	3/5
Mark Hermanson	3/8
Judy Andrew	3/9
Joan Doolittle	3/9
Marvin Kokemiller	3/9
Krystle Ness	3/10
Raejean Bickelhaupt	3/18
Nicolas Hofsommer	3/18
Chase Blagg	3/19
Jacob Ness	3/20
Gay Coltrain	3/21
Adam Hubert	3/25
Christine Marti	3/26
Isabel Hoskins	3/27
Claudia Pauk	3/28

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

March Lectionary

March 3

Exod 20:1-17; Ps 19; 1 Cor 1:18-25;
John 2:13-22

March 10

Num 21:4-9; Ps 107:1-3, 17-22; Eph 2:1-10;
John 3:14-21

March 17

Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:1-12; Heb 5:5-10;
John 12:20-33

March 24

Isa 50:4-9a; Ps 31:9-16; Phil 2:5-11;
Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

March 31

Job 14:1-14; Ps 31:1-4, 15-16 (UMH 764);
1 Peter 4:1-8; Matt 27:57-66 or
John 19:38-42

From Our Pastor

Beloveds,

It seems odd to be sitting here mid-February, barely into the season of Lent, writing about what we have to look forward to in March. Easter is more than a month away—March 31, the last day of the month. Daylight Saving Time begins March 10 (is that still a thing?). The schools will be on spring break that week. The spring equinox is March 19. And then there is Holy Week. And I have many more things of a vocational nature and items of personal business on my calendar. I bet you do, too.

So it seems odd to be thinking about all of these things when we are still in Lent, in the winter season, and, while this may go down as the warmest Iowa winter on record, we are waiting for the other shoe to drop.

Daily the Earth turns into the Sun. The change of seasons is a reminder of God's faithfulness and providence. Life and faith lead us forward, sometimes against our inclinations to hold back, resist, find comfort in the status quo, dragging our feet as we are propelled toward something better.

I read a book written by one of our most experienced astronauts. He had been part of several space shuttle and ISS crews. He reminded his readers that so-called "zero gravity" isn't really that at all. Everywhere in space, especially in Earth orbit, things are attracted to the nearest large mass. In the case of the space shuttle, this meant that the spacecraft was falling to earth faster than its human occupants, so it *seemed* like one was floating in the air. The astronaut said that sometimes, when one was standing on the flight deck, one would suddenly lurch forward, as if they were tripping. It was a reminder that, whether an astronaut knew it or not, he or she was moving forward.

Will spring ever get here? Does Easter seem so far away? Even now, I know that God is calling us forward and he has plans for us when we get there.

Your Servant for Christ's Sake,
Jonathan

Don't Stop Me If You've Heard This One Department

Wife: "You've gone back to the dessert table four times. Aren't you embarrassed?"

Husband: "Not at all. Each time I've told them the desserts are for you."

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.

Great is **thy**
Faithfulness

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, Lorijo 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

Baptism



On Sunday, February 25, Mason Carlos Valdez-Remis was baptized. Mason is the son of Aurora Remis and Michael Valdez. He is the great-grandson of Carlos and Gail Remis.

Time Change



*Sunday, March 10
Daylight Savings Time Begins
Set your clocks forward one hour*



March Volunteers

Sunday, March 3

Liturgist: Kurt Carlson
Tech: The Feils
Ushers: The Ness Family

Sunday, March 10

Liturgist: Dave Doolittle
Tech: Louis Reeder
Ushers: Gini and Caleb Michel

Sunday, March 17

Liturgist: Del Johnston
Tech: Craig and Savannah Jensen
Ushers: Hubert and Raejean Bickelhaupt
Serve: Pauline Kokemiller
Cleanup: Marvin Kokemiller,
Gini Michel
1 Gal. 2% Milk: Lorijo Lounsberry
1 Gal. OJ: Ray and Betty Hults

Sunday, March 24

Liturgist: Becky Barclay
Tech: Krystle Ness
Ushers: Cheryl Semler, Gini and Caleb Michel

Sunday, March 31

Liturgist: Gail Remis
Tech: The Warwicks
Ushers: Kevin and Candi Holm

Holy Week Schedule

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 24	Palm Sunday Service	9:15 A.M.
March 28	Holy Thursday Service	
	- Communion	7:00 P.M.
March 31	Easter Sunday Service	9:15 A.M.

Our Prayers

Dorothy Carbaugh; Donyel Caruth—sister Tawnya has cancer; Doug Feil; Shirley Harreld; Jim Hassebrock—Father, Vincent, health; George Janvrin—health; Loretta Parker; Louis and Tep Reeder—Son-in-law, Luke, diverticulitis, 10 year old granddaughter had knee biopsy, hometown friend hospitalized for RSV; Carlos Remis—health; The Taylors; Beckey Whitthun—Nephew's newborn twins health issues; The staff at Affordables as one of the volunteers (Michelle) passed away

Our Gifts

Offering Feb. 4—Feb. 25:
\$16,760.25

Our Presence

Attendance Feb. 4—Feb. 25
Worship: 351 Total/ 88 Avg.

Our Witness

- ◆ We appreciate our February liturgists: Lauren Crawford, Owen Hubert, Kurt Carlson, and George Janvrin
- ◆ Thank you to our tech team who ran the Power Point in February: Kate and Chris Feil, Kurt Carlson, and Riker Warwick

Our Service

- ◆ Thank you to everyone to took the time to help with year end reports. We really appreciate your willingness to volunteer your time to the church.
- ◆ Thank you to the SPRC for their work on making the transition to a new pastor as smooth as possible for us.

Update

My chemo treatments are history and now I'm receiving in-home physical and occupational therapy to build back strength and stamina. Thank you, Grace Church family for supporting me in myriad ways through this journey. With texts, cards, phone calls, visits and food you kept me humbly aware you were there. Your loving support helped keep me positive in trying moments. I gratefully felt your prayers, especially when snuggled into my beloved prayer shawl during treatments. I feel richly blessed by all your loving care.

With love,
Cathy Hermanson

Thank you!

Grace UMC,
Thank you so much for your help and support this month! We appreciate the willingness of your youth group to serve.
-Loaves and Fishes

Invitation

Emma Schnurstein will be singing with the University of South Dakota Chamber Singers on tour over spring break. You can hear this group perform on Sunday, March 10th at 7 pm at Plymouth Church in Des Moines. The address is 4126 Ingersoll Avenue, Des Moines, IA. 50312. The group will be singing 22 songs during their almost 2-hour concert. I know she would love to see some familiar faces!
Angie Schnurstein

Thank you!

I want to thank everyone involved for the prayers, thoughts and time involved in making and getting me the Shawl. It has been a great comfort to me these couple of days, and I'm sure many more to come as I will certainly be spending much more time with it in my chair. I was pretty uncomfortable first thing Tuesday morning, but feel as if I have made noticeable gains between then and now. Thanks again.
Eric Hart



Lenten Services



On Wednesday evenings, from February 21 through March 20, Grace will join several Lutheran churches from around the area in a series of midweek Lenten devotional meetings. Our worship will begin at 6:30 p.m. Similar to what we did last year, these short meetings will feature a different preacher each week. These pastors represent St. Paul in Hampton, First Lutheran in Dows, Bethany in Iowa Falls, Bethesda in Jewell, Bergen in Roland, and St. Petri in Story City. Jonathan will be traveling to one of the other churches each Wednesday, so it will be necessary to recruit some liturgists for each evening. Please take some time out of your busy schedule to prepare your hearts and minds for Holy Week.

The schedule for Grace is as follows:

March 6 – Maureen Howard from Bethany in Iowa Falls will preach on the topic “In Community with all the saints” from Mark 9:2-8

Liturgist: Gloria Sampson

March 13 – Joy Edeker from Bethesda in Jewell will preach on the topic “In Community with our neighbor” from Mark 2:1-12

Liturgist: Claudia Pauk

March 20 – John Sheahan from Bergen in Roland will preach on the topic “In community with those on the margins” Mark 5:1-20

Liturgist: Terry Gustason

Family Picture

To help Pastor Jena familiarize herself with our congregants before she begins here, we would like to send her a picture directory of our members. If you could send Shannon (office@grace-umc.com) a recent picture of you or your family by March 20, she will compile those pictures into a picture directory for Pastor Jena.

*Lent is the time to plant
the seeds of faith for what
is yet to come.*



Pastor Appointment



The Bishop and her appointive cabinet would like to announce that Rev. Jena Finch-Manchester will be appointed to Grace UMC, as our next pastor, effective July 1, 2024. District Superintendent Ron Carlson met with our SPRC in December to profile our congregation. We shared with him that our missional priorities as a church are

1. A concerted effort on growing membership in the community
2. Develop ministry teams in the areas of youth and children ministries
3. Grow in stewardship, especially in ways to care for the physical plant in the future

And that our ideal pastoral leader will

1. Have strong leadership skills
2. Be a great communicator
3. Be confident and available for feedback
4. Be able to work well with all generations

The Bishop and her appointive cabinet have discerned that Pastor Jena is a missional match for our congregation and has the gifts and abilities to help us live into our missional priorities. District Superintendent Ron Carlson asks that you continue to keep Pastor Jena, as well as Pastor Jonathan and all the congregations in your prayers during this season of transition.

If you have any questions, you can talk to any member of our SPRC - Krystle Ness (chair), Ray Hults, Janet Mason, Cathy Hermanson, Chris Feil, Alejandro Franco, Lauren Crawford

Free Piano

The piano that used to be in the chapel is not needed anymore. If anyone would like the piano for free (that is currently in the hallway outside the chapel) contact Jim Hasebrock.



After not having a January meeting due to inclement weather sixteen members of the Grace United Methodist Women met at 1:30 PM on February 14, 2024 in the Fellowship Hall. Valentines Day is a good day for a meeting as we were given gifts of lotion from Gail and Valentine snack bags from Lena/Jan.

Patsy opened the meeting with a verse from 2nd Thessalonians Chapter 3 Verse 13, followed by prayer. Erma led us in singing verses one and three of "Let Us Break Bread Together" followed by the Pledge.

Patsy said she had received a request from Mark Durby for prayers for his wife Mary as she had surgery. Also health updates on church members and friends was given.

Patsy open the Mission Moment with our Pledge Service. She spoke of ways to give.

Treasurer's Report was given. We have a balance of \$657.49. A list of disbursements for our annual giving in listed in the November-February 2023-24 Treasurer's report.

Terry read the December minutes and they were approved.

It was discussed to make some changes in our December meeting and also discussed was having our July meeting at Timberlake or Cedar Place. We will continue these discussions in future meetings.

Patsy had a table set up that contained thank yous from our December giving. Also requests from Go Serve and Hope Ministries. There were pictures on Mats for March. Because our January meeting was cancelled Alaire Willits from Midwest Missions will be our April speaker. There was information on Mission U which will be held July 13 on ISU campus.

Patsy shared some upcoming dates: March 1 is World Day of Prayer; March 8 is Bell Ringing for Women's Rights; March 23 is the 155th birthday of United Methodist Women. Scandi Days this year will be May 31-June 1, 2. This is a week-end earlier than previous years. Claudia will have information on potato cake day in upcoming meetings.

Raejean had our program. February is the month of love and through readings and drawings she introduced us to Baby Betty, Teenage Tina, Joyful Julie, and Grandma Grace. They helped us understand the different stages and types of love.

Hostesses were Jan/Lena.

March 13 is our next meeting. Mission Moment will be Call to Prayer and Self Denial-Gloria; Program-Patsy; and Hostess-Nancy Submitted by Terry Gustason

Prayer Shawls

A prayer shawl is meant to give someone a tangible example of God's love and care. The shawl is made of soft yarn so the recipient can wrap up in it and feel God's arms around him or her. The maker of the shawl prays before, during, and after they work on the shawl.

We are running low on prayer shawls and lap robes we have available to give out to those who need them. If you knit or crochet, we would love to have you make shawls or lap robes to donate. If you have any questions, contact Patsy Jensen. Donations can be dropped off in the office.



Loaves and Fishes

Twelve people helped at Loaves and Fishes on Saturday, February 17. We were able to assist 19 families (69 individuals). Thank you to all who donated food during February, picked up donation at Hy-Vee, Kum and Go, and Kwik Star and who helped on Saturday. Cooking oils, salt/pepper, spices and jams/jellies are possible donation ideas. Items can be left in the grocery cart in the narthex and will be delivered to Loaves and Fishes.

In 2023, Loaves and Fishes were able to help 976 families (2947 individuals) throughout the year. These families are in the Story City, Gilbert and Roland areas of Story City. This is quote and accomplishment for the local churches to enable this local mission project. Thank you to all who help make this project a success.

Mission Brunch



On Sunday, February 25, we had our monthly mission brunch. They raised over \$2,700 that will go to help with clean up from burst pipe in January. 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 March 17. Money raised will go to help Mobility World Wide.

Adult Sunday School

Beginning on Sunday, February 25 through March 24, Jonathan will be teaching an adult Sunday school class on the last week of Jesus' life. There will be no class on March 10 for spring break. This is a great way to prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

'Soup'er Bowl



Thank you to everyone who donated items to Loaves and Fishes during our 'Soup'er Bowl event. We were able to donate nearly 140# of food to Loaves and Fishes. Our donation was greatly appreciated.

Chapel Clean-Up Update

Things have slowed down with the chapel clean-up. We are in a bit of a waiting period. We've had to wait for insurance evaluate things. Then we have to wait for contractors to get us on their schedule. The next step of clean-up is to remove the asbestos under the tiles in the youth rooms. Workers will be here on March 5 to complete that job. The job should only take a day, two at the most, to complete. We are assured that it will be safe to be in the church while they are working. The rooms will be sealed and properly vented out of the building in order to keep everyone safe in the rest of the building. At this time, the office will remain open while they are working. We will do our best to keep you updated on progress being made on the clean up as we have news to share.



Scouting Sunday



On Sunday, February 11, Grace Scouts helped out with our worship service in honor of Scouting Sunday. Grace Scouts include:

Scouts BSA
 Luccas Hart
 Mason Schnurstein
 Riker Warwick
 Owen Hubert

Cub Scouts
 Lena Feil

Girl Scout Brownie
 Alexandra Franco

Leaders
 Chris Feil
 Nate Warwick
 Amy Franco



Grace UMC Council
Unofficial Minutes from February 26, 2024 Meeting

Present: Gloria Sampson (Chair), Becky Barclay (Finance), Jim Hassebrock (Trustees), Louis Reeder (Trustees), Pastor Jonathan, Cheryl Semler (Worship), Krystle Ness (SPRC), Patsy Jensen (UWF), Gini Michel (Christian Education), Jan Feil (Missions)

Jonathan offered prayer and Gloria opened the meeting.

Gini/Patsy Moved the January minutes be accepted as written. Motion carried.

Finance: Becky reported we have paid our first two months of apportionments. February was a good month for giving, including the Mission brunch; February funds go toward the remediation from the pipes bursting in the chapel.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Jonathan reported dates that he will be out: March 7th conference, March 13th retirement meeting and March 20th retirement event. Shannon will be out of the office the morning of March 13th. Lent services will be taking place on March 6, 13, & 20. Grace will host the Roland-Story Ministerial group on March 21st. Church statistics were due to the conference on Thursday, February 28th, all-in-all, the statistics are about the same as were submitted in 2022 with 260 members.

Committee Reports: Ministry Area

Worship: Cheryl reported satisfaction with the Scout Sunday service this month. There will be no communion during worship during the months of April and May.

Christian Education: Gini reported the adjusted classrooms are working well and is thankful for the continued flexibility.

Missions: Jan reported in 2023, Loaves and Fishes had 140 volunteers, 563 hours, and overall missions giving was \$16,690. A grant application was submitted with In Gathering to go towards the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. In February Loaves and Fishes had 12 volunteers serving 19 families and 69 individuals and 140# of food was donated. Mission brunch raised \$628.87 for the Roland Story Food Pantry.

UWF: Patsy reported the group is discussing meeting at Timberland, inviting two from Cedar Place and connecting with residents at Bethany Life.

Committee Reports: Administrative Area

SPRC: Krystle reported their first meeting for the year on February 12th was spent meeting with District Superintendent Ron Carlson and pastoral candidate Rev. Jena Finch-Manchester. Rev. Finch-Manchester will be the next pastor at Grace church. The committee will prepare our conference review form (formerly 'Another Set of Eyes') between now and our next meeting in April.

Trustees: Louis & Jim reported remediation work is in progress for the chapel and youth rooms. The floor in the chapel is being prepped for the installation of new Luxury Vinyl Plank (LVP) flooring. The week of March 4th, the asbestos remediation will be happening in the basement youth rooms. The final proposal for the Grace Trustees Capital Campaign was presented to the council. Upon review the proposal a motion was made by Patsy/Krystle. Motion carried. A copy of the proposal will be included in the church newsletter.

Endowment: Jonathan reported Michelle Hassebrock will serve as the committee chair.

New Business: Jonathan shared a letter from Alyssa Loots asking if Grace Church would be the host site for the Angel Tree Program in 2024. Gini moved to approve the use of Grace Church for the 2024 Angel Tree Program. Patsy seconded the motion and motion carried.

Gloria adjourned meeting at 7:34 pm

Next meeting will be **Monday, March 25 at 6:30 pm.**

Respectfully submitted, Krystle Ness, SPRC

Trustees Capital Campaign

Proposal for Grace Trustees Capital Campaign

Over the past few years, several significant projects have arisen that require funding above and beyond the trustee's annual budget. The Trustees have worked to identify and prioritize four key projects that are considered necessary for the upkeep and continued functionality of the church property.

An *ad hoc* Fundraising committee was formed to examine the needs and feasibility of a campaign to raise the necessary funds to complete the projects identified by the trustees. Members of that committee are Jim Hassebrock, Becky Barclay, Dave Barclay, Chris Feil, Dan Webster, Lorijo Lounsberry, and Louis Reeder.

The Capital Campaign was informally announced to the congregation in December to provide church members an opportunity to make contributions in calendar year 2023 and \$3,700.00 were contributed.

We are asking the Council to approve the Trustees plan to begin a 3-year capital campaign to raise \$225,000.00 to complete the following projects.

1. **Sanctuary Roof Replacement.** This is our highest priority and includes replacement of the roof installation of gutter guards, and roof access to the sanctuary air handlers. Estimate from TMJ Construction \$43,306.34
2. **HVAC Replacement.** This is our second priority and includes replacement of HVAC system in the church offices, classrooms, kitchen, sanctuary, and parsonage. The office system will need to be replaced in the spring of 2024 because the compressor for that area was removed in the fall of 2023 to provide access for the grading project along the east side of the building. The other systems can be replaced as needed. They are currently working, but are approximately 30 years old. If any system fails, the need for replacement becomes immediate. Estimate from O'Conner Heating and Cooling \$45,750.00
3. **Automated Door Openers.** The third priority item is an automated door opening system for one outer door and one inner door at the west entrance to the church. This will improve accessibility to the church. Estimate from Basepoint Building Automation \$7,400.00
4. **Parking Lot Repaving.** Six-inch asphalt in the parking area and alley plus 12 parking bumpers. Install a storm water intake at the SE corner of the alley and connect to city storm sewer in the east/west alley south of the parsonage. Estimate from Manatts \$82,190.00

Overall Costs	
Roof	\$ 43,306.34
HVAC	\$ 45,750.00
Automated Entry	\$ 7,400.00
Parking Lot	\$ 82,190.00
Subtotal	\$ 178,646.34
Contingency & Inflation	\$ 46,500.00
Total	\$ 225,146.34



March 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	
3 9:15 Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Youth Comm. @St. Petri	4	5 Asbestos Removal	6 5:00 Children's Bells 6:30 Lenten Service 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	7	8	9
10 9:15 Worship 10:15 Fellowship	11 5:30 Worship Comm.	12	13 1:30 UWF 6:30 Lenten Service 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells Office Closed	14	15	16
17 8:00 Trustees 9:15 Worship 10:15 Mission Brunch 10:30 Sunday School	18	19	20 5:00 Children's Bells 6:30 Lenten Service 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	21 9:30 Roland-Story Ministers At Grace	22	23
24 9:15 Worship -Palm Sunday 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School	25 5:45 Finance 6:30 Council	26	27 8:00 Bells	28 7:00 Holy Thursday Service	29	30
31 9:15 Worship—Easter 10:15 Fellowship						

Lent - The Journey Begins



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