

WEEKLY WORSHIP

A weekly message/worship service is recorded and linked on church website and Facebook. It's posted by 1:00 PM. Friday afternoons and available for viewing anytime including 9:30 AM Sunday morning. This worship event is also aired on SMU channel 3 Wednesdays at 7:00 PM & Thursdays @ 10:00 AM and Broadcast on KICD (102.5 AM) Sundays @ 9:07 am. This week's music 'leader:' Susan Archibald; Easter: Bill Lauritzen; 19th: The Band (?)

Worship

PRAYER REQUESTS

David Grice, son of Carol Lauritzen, brother of Kathy Habben, died last Saturday in Houston, TX. Memorial service to be held at State Center, IA. Greetings may be sent to Carol & Bill; 1002 6th St. SW; Spencer 51301 or Kathy; 1417 Fairview Ave; Spencer 51301



...for those whose health is compromised by the coronavirus or other health issues
...for essential workers, first responders, public servants who are working longer hours and under added stress.
...for leaders of the world, countries, states, and cities, making tough decisions to curb the spread of the virus
...for those who suffer from the economic impact of the virus, in travel, manufacturing, hospitality, energy or so many other industries and those who are unemployed or laid off.
...for yourself, families, friends, neighbors
...for those with mental health concerns, as well as those who feel extra lonely during this time
...and all others who should be on this list...

If you have prayer requests, you may send them to office@spencegumc.com.


ALLELUIA!
CHRIST IS ALIVE!

PRAYER

God of life and being, we recognize now how our previous expressions of Lent "sacrifice" have been paltry and lifeless. We thought giving up chocolate or maybe a meal a week was extreme, but in this setting of existence, when so much we've taken for granted is unreachable, we are more empty of Self than ever before.



We are more aware perhaps than ever before of the priority we have placed on those things within our control. Removed from them, we realize the many parts of our lives that are actually unresurrected; set apart from your resurrecting power.

We are grateful that your love is as persistent as it is. And since you refuse to give up on every one of us, fill us with resolve to refuse to give up on ourselves.

So fill us with resurrection, O God, that we might shine light into the dark places of hurt and heartache. Give us the eyes of faith so we see the light of eternal purpose. Grant to us the vision of those first witnesses of resurrection so we shall live, not cringing in fear or sorrow, but in renewed hope and assurance.

Free our voice and spirits to sing with joy: "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" Amen!

THINGS TO DO

- Start a journal or a blog. Writing is a great to help process thoughts and feelings and down the road, it will help you to remember this unusual time. Write about your childhood, family memories, reflect on what's important to you, etc. What a gift that would be to share writings with family and friends.
- Complete a jigsaw puzzle. Do a word search.
- Use this time to grow spiritually. Read your Bible. Spend time in prayer.
- Write letters to family and friends.
- Get your closet, finances, drawers, etc. in order. Stop putting off those tasks that are easy to put off for a rainy day.
- Read. Cook/bake. Sew. Clean. Build. Color. Draw. Try something new. Stretch. Exercise. Sit outside. Listen.
- Create a new means of Easter celebration!!
- Stay home.

HOLY WEEK BIBLE READING POSSIBILITIES

This is a good year to get into the gospel accounts of the Last week of Jesus' life. I encourage you to become familiar with Matthew's version, from "Palm Sunday" through Easter and beyond. But here's a comparison of the four gospels:



- ▶ Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) and Monday – Wednesday:
Matthew 21 - 25; Mark 11-13; Luke 19:28-38; John 12:12-19 (John 12:20-50 is kind of a sermon!)
- ▶ The "Passion Narratives"- including the "Last Supper", Gethsemane, Arrest, Trial & Crucifixion/Burial
Matthew 26-27; Mark 14-15; Luke 22-24; John 13-19
- ▶ After the Resurrection
Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20 & 21 (Did John originally end at chapter 20? Seems so!)

The end of Jesus' life was very important to each of the gospel writers. One way to realize that is that of the 28 chapters of Matthew, eight or 29% deal with the last week. In Mark 38%; Luke 25%; and John 'wins' with over 47% dealing with the last week and Jesus' final words!

Matthew offers eight chapters to enjoy one per day this week, Sunday to Sunday.

At this point it's doubtful if this spring we'll get to do the New Testament study from Exploring the Bible series. But if you do participate in that study, this material is definitely great preparation!!

AND it will provide you with biblical resources to celebrate the RESURRECTION of JESUS!

Pastor Paul Frederiksen

REJOICE!

REACHING OUT

Grace continues to reach out and serve our congregation and community. Here are a few ways:

- Grace was unable to deliver Jump Start bags in March with Head Start closed, so we took a van load of food and toilet paper to Upper Des Moines Opportunity (UDMO).
- Pit Stop had just ordered a supply of latex gloves we use when serving meals. With supplies limited, we delivered three boxes to the Spencer Hospital emergency room.
- Quilters had an abundance of fabric available to make Ingathering quilts. Bags of fabric are currently available in the hallway outside the office for anyone wanting to make masks. Thanks to those making masks!
- Grand Avenue Community Outreach requested funds for a Spencer Manor/Sunset Apt feeding program. Grace provided \$500 to assist with this program.
- Many have volunteered to call on behalf of the church to reach out and care for one another through phone calls, texts, social media or notes. **If you'd like to send out postcards to essential workers & first responders, let the office know.** Thank you for checking on your friends, family and neighbors!

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

THANKS to all who've continued to financially support the work of the church. Many have signed up for electronic deposits through the Spencer Grace UMC website (<http://spencergumc.com/give.php>). Others have mailed checks to the church. **Thank you!**

If you've not taken the opportunity to give, enclosed is an envelope that will go to support the Ministry Funding Plan. We've typically received an Easter Pool offering for Mission but have postponed that offering. Your regular offerings will help us to continue to be a part of ministries in Spencer and around the world.

IN
Everything
GIVE
Thanks

FOUNDATION APPLICATION DEADLINE: Extended!

The Disbursement Committee has extended the deadline for Foundation applications to at least until May 11th. We understand this may not be the "final answer." The scoring and processing of those grants is relational, as we hope some of the visioning and writing are as well.

"MEETINGS" ARE STILL POSSIBLE...

Gatherings via phone or Zoom allow "meetings" to happen. Let the office know if you want help setting it up.




OFFICE HOURS/STAFF AVAILABILITY

Staff are trying to practice social distancing and stay safe while doing the work that's needed. We may reduce office hours and even close the building and work from home occasionally. If you need assistance, please call the church office at 262-5970 or Pastor Paul at 262-7654. We encourage you to stay home as much as possible and venture out only if necessary.

NEXT NEWSLETTER - if all goes as 'planned' mid-APRIL

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
SPENCER, IA 51301
PERMIT NO. 145

Return Service Requested

**Grace United Methodist Church**
311 2nd Ave West • Spencer, Iowa 51301
(712) 262-5970 • www.spencergumc.com
office@spencergumc.com

Pastor Paul Frederiksen
pastorpaul@spencergumc.com
Ministry Contacts:
Ad Council: Cyndi O'Hara
Staff Parish: Mitch McCann
Finance: Dennis Spooner
Trustee: Gary Small
Lay Leaders: John Rahn & Cyndi O'Hara
Missions: Gina Kohrs
Children's Ministry:
Lisa Elliott & Sheryl Larson
Discipleship Coordinator: Jane Moen
Youth: Veronica Studer
UMW: Sandy Heerdt
UMM: Brad Johnson
Stewardship: John Rahn

**Easter**
He IS Risen!