

# GRACE LMC NEWSLETTER

Grace United Methodist Church  
Pastor Paul Frederiksen  
311 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave West - Spencer, Iowa 51301  
(712)262-5970  
[pastorpaul@spencergumc.com](mailto:pastorpaul@spencergumc.com)  
[www.spencergumc.com](http://www.spencergumc.com)



April 29, 2020

Grace Greetings to All,

The risen Jesus comes to his followers, then and now, saying: "Peace be with you."

**We will NOT be worshipping in-person the month of May.** Let me assure you, we join the majority of Spencer churches in that decision! Yes, the Governor said we could. Her statement did NOT say we should! The matter of opening for worship is NOT a matter of "religious liberty" as some have suggested. It is a community health issue, caring for our neighbors.

At least 23 pastors/leaders of churches were on our twice-weekly Zoom call this afternoon. Only two were weakly considering holding in-person worship this week or even in May. This evening we held a meeting of the Administrative Council over Zoom. There was consensus to hold off until at least June 7.

By the way, even if we would hold corporate worship, it is still expected that people in the "vulnerable" demographic would remain home. That includes anyone with a chronic health condition as well as anyone 65 years or more old. Currently in Iowa, few children have contracted Covid-19 and not all that many elderly, though the elderly do represent the majority of deaths. By far the most positive tests have been "adults" in the middle of the age spectrum. That demographic is now being labeled, unfortunately, "the Spreaders."

After the Council meeting, I checked my email to discover in my inbox a letter signed by 20 of Iowa's "denominational leaders" expressing their surprise of the Governor's proclamation. The numbers of positive cases in Iowa, including the region of which Clay is part, does not suggest it would be a "love your neighbor act" to gather people together. In fact, Colette Rossiter from the Spencer Hospital was part of our pastor's meeting this afternoon and she said NW Iowa is "exploding" right now with new cases. Incidentally, Dr. Keith, M.D. on the Clay County Board of Public Health who is currently the Bishop ("pastor") of the local Church of the LDS was on the call and concurred. Eric Tigges of Clay County Emergency Management was also present and said we need to continue to do what we're doing, wear our mask, keep social distance, stay home.

As we look forward to the next possible startup date your leadership will be making some plans. For example: It is recommended that after use, the room/s & furnishings be disinfected. Therefore, do we worship in the sanctuary, on wood and cloth; or in the Fellowship Hall on steel chairs? The use or even availability of Hymnals or provided Bibles is discouraged. Not a huge thing with our projection capabilities. How shall we enforce, lovingly, social distancing? And many more...

We shall allow Grace-related groups of no more than 10 persons to use the facilities, with the expectation that masks and/or social distancing of at least 6' be observed and individuals use the sanitizer coming in and out of the building. At this point, we also intend the office to remain "open" during regular hours. We appreciate the limited traffic in the building, and those who keep distance and/or wear a mask. At this point we do have masks available right outside the office and if you do not have one to wear when out on business, come and get one!

We will continue to offer worship via SMU access channel, Facebook, website, KICD as well as means of devotion and participation as specified in last week's newsletter. Prayers welcome!!

*Pastor Paul*

## MONDAY NIGHT [ZOOM] 'CLASS': "5 PRACTICES FOR COAXING ORDER OUT OF CHAOS"

Starting **Monday, May 4, at 6:00 PM.** I will be hosting on Zoom a conversation using an article by church consultant Susan Beaumont of the title above. The article is posted on the Spencer Grace website on the Home page under "Featured Events". If you don't have internet access, I can send it to you.

God's work from the beginning through the death and resurrection of Jesus even to the current day is bring order out of Chaos. So, how might we give an assist to God's work in our day? This 'class' may be one session or more. **Let me know your intent so I can send the ZOOM invite. You can participate by phone or on the internet.** We can also have a small number of participants in-person in the Narthex, but no more than 10. Again, let me know so you can have the article hard copy prior to the first session.

*Pastor Paul*



## WORSHIP MESSAGES

are available online by 1:00 PM on Fridays.

YouTube Channel:

[Spencer-Grace Church](#)

Spencer Grace webpage:

[www.spencergumc.com/sermons-and-bulletins.php#videos](http://www.spencergumc.com/sermons-and-bulletins.php#videos) or click on "Watch Worship Message" on the home page.

**Catch the Spirit Broadcast on KICD:**

Sundays @ 9:07 AM

**SMU Airing of Previous Sunday Worship:**

Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM

Thursdays @ 10:00 AM



## GIVING ONLINE

Your "attitude of gratitude" toward God's generosity is showing! Due to those of you who have been able to continue your offerings, we are holding our own financially. On behalf of your leadership: Thank you!

If you are wanting to give towards Grace Ministry please use the following link to set up your online giving:  
[www.spencergumc.com/give.php](http://www.spencergumc.com/give.php).

You may send also your offerings to the church (311 2nd Ave W) using the U.S. Mail. Your ongoing support is appreciated.



## GRIEF SHARE

Wednesdays

May 13 through July 29  
6-8 PM by Zoom Session

### Facilitators:

*Sheryl Larson & Dorothy DeGroot*

Please contact the church office to sign up for this session. (262-5970).

## GRACE REFLECTIONS & STORYTELLING

Take time to reflect on this season of your life and share a story about **what you've observed and learned, where you've seen God at work** in your life and in the world around you, and/or **lessons learned or words of hope you'd share with others**. Feel free to include **scripture** that has been meaningful to you or what your **prayer** might be based on your reflections. **Submit up to 300 words per story to the church office or email [office@spencergumc.com](mailto:office@spencergumc.com) by MAY 11.** We will share (online, newsletter, etc.) these reflections of hope, perseverance, and encouragement with others in the upcoming weeks.



## CREATIVITY AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

During this season, while some people have discretionary time and are "staying at home", you are invited to consider how expressing yourself creatively is a spiritual practice. Take a **PICTURE(S) OF YOURSELF** while expressing yourself creatively and doing what you love to do (i.e. quilting, woodworking, coloring, making masks). Also, take pictures of what you are working on. **Send photos to [office@spencergumc.com](mailto:office@spencergumc.com) by MAY 4.** If you have any scripture or inspirational quotes that are meaningful to you, please include those as well. **In this season of "physical distancing", we encourage you to connect with one another by taking time to share what you are doing.** Our plan is to make a video for social media and share inspirational messages with your pictures.



## ZOOM CLASSES

Want to learn about ZOOM? We will be offering classes to practice Tuesdays at 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM on May 5, and 12. Call the office to learn more and sign up.



## MAY/JUNE UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL

The Upper Room devotionals for May/June are here. Pick up during office hours or call 262-5970 and we'll deliver to anyone in Spencer.



## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Needing words of encouragement or spiritual pick-me-up? On Fridays, we record an inspirational, weekly devotional. You can access the message by simply calling **the office (at 262-5970) weekends or weekdays after 7:00 PM to listen to the message.** When you call during these times, you will get the answering machine. **As soon as the answering machine message starts, enter 10. The phone will ring another 3 times and then you will hear the recorded devotional.**



## CHILDREN STORY TIME

During this season, Grace will have a story time for children on the Spencer Grace Facebook page on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Noon. If you would like to read a story, contact the church office.



## Grace United Methodist Church

311 2nd Ave West • Spencer, Iowa 51301  
(712) 262-5970 • [www.spencergumc.com](http://www.spencergumc.com)  
[office@spencergumc.com](mailto:office@spencergumc.com)

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

Return Service Requested

**Pastor Paul Frederiksen**  
[pastorpaul@spencergumc.com](mailto: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

