

June 2023

GRACE NEWSLETTER

Ministers: All God's People!

Grace Mission Statement:

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Worship News

Effective June 1st we will be having only one Sunday morning worship service for the summer months. This will give us time to evaluate what type of Fall worship schedule should be used to reach out to our community. At this point we will continue the 9:00 am worship and add some more contemporary music during our Ministry of Music, Offertory, Prelude and Postlude times. Our praise band has blessed us with their music but most of them have now moved on from our church, so as we make plans, we will need new music leadership.

We also are planning on a special event that we are calling "**Dinner Church**" which will focus on an evening meal together, some special friends gracing us with music, table talk and a brief devotion by our Pastor. Our dates for the Summer include June 10th , July 8th , and August 12th . We invite you to save these dates, join us and bring friends.

By Rev. Dr. Barrie Tritle

Staff updates for Grace UMC

Greetings to you all in the name of our Risen Savior Jesus Christ. Here are some updates on our staff:

Pastor Barrie announced on Sunday May 7th that the Cabinet has asked him to stay until at least the end of the year to give them more time to make the right appointment for Grace UMC and he has accepted this request. Continue to lift him and Kae in your prayers as they lead Grace forward through our transitions.

On April 9th Kay Clancy gave notice that on April 10th she would be ending her employment with Grace UMC. We express appreciation to Kay for her years of service and wish her well in her new endeavors. We hope to soon have a clarified Job Description and be open to applications for this position.

Our Choir Director Susan Archibald has given us two weeks' notice and will be leaving us to expand her responsibilities at her home church. We thank her for her service and will recognize her on Sunday May 28th when we have a special music presentation from our Choir. We wish her well in her newly expanded responsibilities at her home church. We hope to have a clarified job description and will be seeking a new choir director and be open to applications for this position.

Shante Whalen, our Contemporary Worship Director & Youth Director gave us advanced notice that she will be leaving as our Contemporary Worship Director effective May 7th and as our Youth Director effective after the Summer Games in July. We thank Shante for sharing her amazing music talents and her love for youth with us. We wish her well in her future ministry opportunities. Our SPRC will be working on how to meet our program needs and making plans for meeting those needs. When those plans are clear we will be sharing them with you.

As you can see, we are in a time of transition and our staff need your prayers, support, and encouragement as we seek to minister together in Christ's name.

By Rev. Dr. Barrie Tritle

“Grace In a Time of Change”

Just when we felt we were emerging from the Pandemic and the effects of Covid-19, Grace UMC experienced another challenge. This challenge came from within. Our congregation faced disagreement and discord. We have chosen to remain a United Methodist congregation, but we will likely encounter more changes and challenges in our future.

We are in a period of Transition. According to the dictionary, transition means “the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another”.

In an excerpt from a 2021 article about the Pandemic entitled, “A Year of Transition”, **Kae Tritle, RN Wellness Coordinator for the Iowa UMC Conference**, summarized the different stages of transition as described by W. Bridges in Transitions: Making Sense of Life’s Changes.

Please consider how these same thoughts could apply not only to the Pandemic but also to our current church reality as well.

1. **Endings** – Transition always begins with an ending...A grief response was activated. We have experienced a multitude of emotions.

2. **Neutral Zone** - This is a true in-between time. A time between death of the past and birth of the future. Often there is a sense of emptiness and a feeling of sorrow as the past life is dismantled. Many of us have experienced or are experiencing this currently, even as we have adapted and coped with changes...We also continue to be in the grief process as we deal with the losses in our [church] lives...

Just as the fallow winter season is necessary for the re-birth that happens each spring; the neutral zone is necessary for transformation and renewal within our [church]...

3. **New Beginnings** - This is what we long and hope for, but it is also a process. While we want external signs and signals (neon or otherwise) that we have arrived, true beginnings seldom happen that way...For both persons and organizations, it may be an off-the-wall idea that at first glance seems impractical or improbable. True beginnings aren’t so much an outward goal as an inward resonance. There is an inner alignment with deep longings which cause a renewal of energy and powerful motivation. One feels a compulsion to take action and to start. True beginnings do take time, however. Be gentle with yourself as you continue the inner identification process and live into your new reality.

A common synonym for transition is growth. At Grace UMC, we will continue to hope and pray for positive growth in all of our ministries.

Kae’s article ends with a reminder that is still appropriate for us at Grace. “Have patience and perseverance as the transition process continues. We will come out on the other side with a sense of hope and renewal. “

By Dorothy DeGroot and Kae Tritle, RN Wellness Coordinator for the Iowa UMC Conference

Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. – Isaiah 64:8

Grace Caring Corner

Our Hearts are full of gratitude:

- For Pastor Barrie and Kae Tritle coming to us;
- For all of those who have stepped up in this transition time at Grace UMC;
- For those who have helped in the Church Office with bulletins, newsletters, mailings, and answering the phone;
- For those who have created wonderful display cases and bulletin boards;
- For those doing custodial work;
- For those who have helped with food and after church coffees and
- For the many others who have helped in ways that are not mentioned here.

You have all made such a difference!

THANK YOU

Grace United Methodist Church has been a true blessing in my life. I want to thank everyone for the support you have shown me. The phone calls, cards, visits, and gifts are very special to me. Thank you to my friends at GUMC!

Sandy Thomas

WANTED: Musicians for 9:00 AM Sunday Worship Service during this summer. Please contact Pastor Barrie at 712-262-5970.

NEW MEMBER

Welcome Frank O'Clair to GUMC!!

Frank and Linda have 3 sons, Ben (Heidi), Adam (LeAnne) and Nathan with 6 grandchildren.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Virginia Mae (Weiland) Bergner

June 8th @ 10AM

Grace United Methodist Church
There is a sale of Virginia's collectibles and home décor at her house to help pay for funeral expenses.

May 26th Friday, 27th Saturday
& 28th Sunday

308 Highway Avenue SW, Fostoria

PEW CARDS

You may have noticed the new, brightly colored cards in the pews. These cards serve a variety of purposes. If you have a prayer request, please complete a card and place it in the collection plate. Also, if you are new to our town or church and would like a pastoral call or are interested in joining our church, you can indicate your request on the card. Pastor Barrie is looking forward to meeting you.

Dorothy DeGroot

SUNDAY MORNING LITURGISTS

June 4—Dorothy DeGroot

June 11—Ben Pullen

June 18—Becky Prentice

June 25—Kevin Tlam

Please call or text Jenn Ingledue 712-346-7720 if you are interested in reading the scripture during the 9AM Sunday Worship Service.

GREETER SIGN-UP

It's great to be greeted by a smiling face as we enter the building for Sunday worship. If you or your family would like to be involved in this Greeter Ministry, please sign up on the appropriate sheet on the table in the Narthex. We greet at the East and West doors, and at the North door by the office. Wear your name tag or make a paper name tag at the Welcome Center in the Narthex. Please be available to greet by 30 minutes before the service. Thank you for considering this very important task for Sunday morning.

Dorothy DeGroot



Flagfest Food Stand Saturday, June 10th

We are bringing back the tradition of having a lunch for sale after the Flagfest Parade. The committee will be meeting in May to plan the event. We will be looking for volunteers to help cook, serve, set up and tear down. We will also be asking for donations of cookies or bars and possibly other food items.

Information and sign-ups will be in the church office during the week and the Narthex on Sunday mornings starting May 28th. All monies raised will be used for Mission opportunities. If you have any questions, please contact Alison Herman or Lisa Elliott.

That morning as we prepare, the church will be open for the restrooms or if anyone needs to get in from the weather.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Next United Women in Faith Meeting:

Thursday, June 1st @ 1:30pm

BenTena Room

Lisa Elliott's Program:

Magnificent Monarch Butterflies

Esther Circle providing refreshments.

SAVE THE DATES

Mission u will be one day this year.

July 15, 2023

Central College

Pella, Iowa

Study: "Living the Kin-Dom:

Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a

Spiritual Practice for Social

Transformation"

Our UWFaith unit will be hosting the
**Camp Clear Lake District Annual
United Women in Faith Meeting
Saturday, September 30th
with setup Friday, September 29th.**

We will be greeting and serving morning coffee and rolls along with a noon luncheon for approximately 75 guests. Our local group will be receiving all of the collected registration money to cover our expenses.

Please report your UWFaith reading items to Dorothy DeGroot by June 15th.

Jane Ingledue, President
United Women in Faith

REMINDER KIDS!

The UWFaith Reading Challenge is still going on. You have plenty of time to check out and read books from the church library whenever the building is open. Just find a good book or two, pull out the card in front, write in your name, and place the card in the plastic container. Enjoy exploring new worlds through reading! Then return the book and fill out and turn in your record of books read or listened to by June 30th to earn a prize. There will be special recognition for the youth who reads the most. Ask a friend to join you in this challenge.



Cyndi O'Hara,
Education & Interpretation Officer
United Women in Faith

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Pets Unleashed

When: Tuesday, June 27; Wednesday, June 28 and
Thursday, June 29
from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

FREE for all who attend
Ages 4 to 5th grade are Welcome!

Anyone interested in helping please sign up on
volunteer form in Narthex and include phone number & email or attend a meeting on
May 31 at 6:00 p.m.

Registration forms are available online at <http://www.spencergumc.com/forms.php>



SUMMER CAMPS IN 2023

The Lake Okoboji United Methodist Camp is ready for another fantastic summer. We are looking forward to morning wake up calls, afternoons at the Lake, evenings around the campfire, and everything in-between. For over a century, campers have been coming to Lake Okoboji UM Camp. We know this summer will be the best one yet. Camperships are available, contact the Church office.

Visit <https://okobojicamp.com/summer-camps/> for more information.



REGISTRATION FORM

(ONE PER CHILD)

Child's name: _____

Child's age: _____ Date of birth: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

Name of parent(s): _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home telephone: (_____) _____

Parent/caregiver's cell phone: (_____) _____

Home email address: _____

Home church: _____

Crew number or name (for church use only): _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____



In case of emergency, contact: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship to child: _____

Youth Group Wrap-Up:

What a year we have had and honestly, in the best ways. Kids are resilient and our Grace kids have strong faith! At the beginning of the year, we made a big physical move to the basement rooms, where the leaders tried to make the space as “cool” and inviting as possible with colored lights, fun tapestries and rugs. I think it was successful! Weekly we saw an average of about 10 middle schoolers and 13 high schoolers.

We had a variety of lessons throughout the year. Youth Group topics covered this year: Step by Step - Where Did You See God Today?, The Good Life - How to develop and share the Fruits of the Spirit, First Place - Jesus can use one thing to change everything, Simplify - Don't make faith complicated, New Year New Life - Repent, forgive, focus on God, Disagreements & Differences - Act 15 Paul & Barnabas, how to remain friends and do good work, Bible 101 - Learning the organization of the Bible, Walking on Water -Trusting God, The Goal is God - Live in Christian ways always, Game On - Hebrews 10:24 motivate yourself and others to stay committed to God over the summer.

But our youth group wasn't just about the lessons (because after a few long days of school, they didn't need another class some days). We played lots of fun and silly games, packed bags for the Missions HeadStart project, moved items for Journey to Bethlehem, wrote Valentine's Day cards to congregation members with positive thoughts, hosted a three-church Romans & Christians night, watched a few episodes of The Chosen, ran around town to hide eggs for the younger kids, made our own Munchie Madness brackets, hosted a Church-wide Trivia Night, ran around the church on a Bible verse scavenger hunt, played games & puzzles at Kevin & Shante's house, went swimming at the YMCA, played basketball/Bojiball at Fairview Park with the UMCamp of Okoboji camp counselor Megan; and ended the year discussing our summer faith commitments and playing games at Game State.

At the end of the year, I asked them a few questions in reflection and some of their favorite memories. Here are few: Why did/do you come to youth group? “To learn more about God and see friends and see Kevin”, “For the people and memories we make”, “to grow closer to God and fun while doing it”, “It's fun and it bring everyone together with God”.

What is a favorite youth group memory from this year? “Group talks and being all together”, “Chasing Jaxon with a dodgeball”, “When we all held hands and prayed”, “When we played Bible Quiplash and Ms. Shante's house”. “When Pastor Tim would come in and distract us with food or rubber chickens, then explain things we didn't know were in the Bible”, “When Easton, Harry, and David made Shante mad so she had them teach the lesson”. - I have to note that this was frustration and they did so well that my “anger” was diffused within seconds! It is also one of my favorite memories, because I learned how much the kids really are listening even when goofing off.

What is a take-away lesson/thought/conversation you have from this past year? “Continue to care for everyone and spread the Word”, “I really enjoyed the lesson about friendships/relationships because it got me to get toxic people out of my life”, “You can always accept God”, “God does not make bad things happen and allows them for lessons and makes good things from them”, “being taught about Christianity as a whole”, “God is always with us, and the Bible breakdown”.

Continued -- Youth Group Wrap-Up:

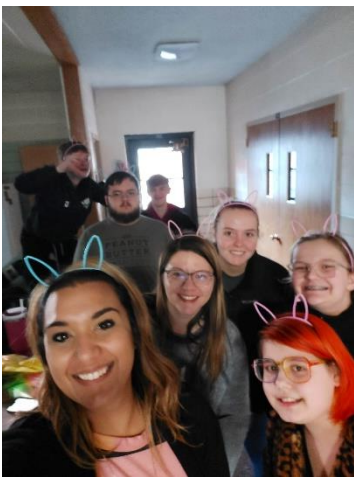
We had some amazing youth leaders who volunteered their time for so many Wednesday nights to be a part of the youth's faith journey. We give a HUGE thank you to: **Kevin Whalen, Meredith Frasher, Gracie Dammann, and Brandon & Monica Edmonds**. So many lessons, games and events could not have happened without their help. In the reflection, the youth were also asked **Any people (leaders, peers, etc.) you feel thankful for in your faith and this year's efforts?** Here are a few: "Kevin"x3, "Shante & Meredith, able to talk about anything and always there", "I really appreciate Shante because she has been with me almost my whole faith journey and she has been amazing and I'm really going to miss her after high school", "Brandon & Kevin willing to play the games with us", "Kevin and Shante leaded it and made me happy", "Shante & Gracie always willing to listen".

I share these not to boast, but to show and encourage everyone to get involved with our children and youth. There is SO much reward, and these kids need and appreciate it more than you know. A few weeks of listening to a lesson with them, asking them some thought-provoking questions, and playing games with them can build a relationship and memory they may need in their life and faith journey. (Especially because kids don't always like to listen to their own parents-so they need other Christian adults to listen to them and hear what their parents would want them to know).

This summer we have a couple things on the calendar: RiseFest for the youth that were interested in attending with us in June, and Summer Games University Camp in July. We are sending 11 campers and even one camp counselor (Jaxon Morris)! We are all so excited, and I hope the church is too. This event sets our youth's souls on fire for Jesus with a ton of fun packed in the week too! I can't wait to see their passion for God while they are there and when they return.

We thank the congregation for your support and finances to do the fun things we get to with these youth. And I thank you for the opportunity to lead and know these amazing kids, I'm so blessed. We are truly living out The Great Commission!

In Christ,
Shante Whalen





We send tangible resources to those in need to make an intangible difference in their lives through hope and empowerment.

FILL THE TRUCK AT THE 2023 IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SPECIAL NEEDS FOR 2023 is used medical equipment, including:

- Walkers
- Crutches
- Wheelchairs
- Canes
- Shower chairs
- Orthopedic supplies



THEY ALSO NEED
gently used tools.



BRING YOUR GIFTS AND DONATIONS TO THE MIDWEST MISSIONS TRAILER

at the 2023 Iowa Annual Conference Session
June 2-4, 2023 at The RecPlex
6500 Grand Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266

AND Home Care Kits

- Liquid household cleaners - 56-80 oz total (no spray bottles)
- Dish soap - 42-64 oz total
- Liquid laundry detergent - 100-150 oz total
- 1 scrub brush (with or without handle)
- 5-gallon bucket with lid
- Please add your heartfelt prayers to each kit

SCAN TO WATCH
INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO



ANY QUESTIONS:

Danille Curtis, Iowa Coordinator for Midwest Mission
danille@midwestmission.org www.midwestmission.org





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office@spencergumc.com

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship:

Sunday 9:00 AM – Traditional

Sunday 10:30 AM – Contemporary

Pastor Barrie Tritle

barrie.tritle@gmail.com

June 2023

May 31, Wednesday

6 PM VBS Volunteers Meeting

June 1, Thursday

10:30 AM The Lord's Prayer Adult Study

1:30 PM UWFaith Meeting

5:30 PM Taekwondo

June 2, Friday

June 3, Saturday

June 4, Sunday

9 AM Worship Service

June 5, Monday

1 PM DHS Meeting

5:30 PM Mission Meeting

June 6, Tuesday

5:30 PM Taekwondo Class

June 7, Wednesday

9:30 AM Coffee & Grace

June 8, Thursday

10 AM Memorial Service for Virginia Mae Bergner

5:30 PM Taekwondo Class

June 9, Friday

June 10, Saturday

Flagfest Parade

Dinner Church

June 11, Sunday

9 AM Worship Service

June 12, Monday

6:30 PM Trustees Meeting

June 13, Tuesday

5:30 PM Taekwondo Class

5:30 PM Children's Ministries -Fireside

June 14, Wednesday

June 15, Thursday

Newsletter Articles due @

jdgingledue@gmail.com

June 16, Friday

June 17, Saturday

June 18, Sunday

9 AM Worship Service

June 19, Monday

June 20, Tuesday

5:30 PM Taekwondo Class

June 21, Wednesday

9:30 AM Coffee @ Grace

June 22, Thursday

5:30 PM Taekwondo Class

June 23, Friday

June 24, Saturday

3 PM Becker Wedding

June 25, Sunday

9 AM Worship Service

June 26, Monday

June 27, Tuesday

9 AM – 3 PM Weighted Work With Love

8:30 -11:30 AM VBS

5:30 Taekwondo Class

June 28, Wednesday

8:30 -11:30 AM VBS

June 29, Thursday

8:30 -11:30 AM VBS

5:30 Taekwondo Class

June 30, Friday