

July 2023

# GRACE NEWSLETTER

Ministers: All God's People!

Grace Mission Statement:

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

From the Pastor

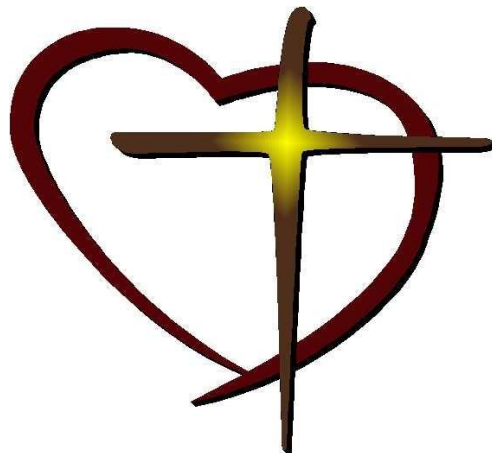
As United Methodists we pledge when we join the church to faithfully participate in the ministries of Grace UMC by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. Some of these seem self-evident, but what is our witness? To be a witness is to give testimony to our faith. We do this by our words and our actions.

I invite you to practice the FRAN plan as a part of your personal witness for Grace UMC. The FRAN plan is when you take a piece of paper and write the following four categories on it for reflection: Friends, Relatives, Acquaintances and Neighbors. Think about the people you know in each of these categories and place their names in each category. Pray for them and pray for the opportunity to invite them to a church event such as worship: Bible study, Dinner Church, a small group or other activity you are involved in through Grace UMC. Invite them and include that you would be willing to pick them up and go with them. Continue to build on this relationship and continue to pray for them.

Dr. Thom Rainer (President and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources) states, "The average United Methodist **only invites someone to church once every 38 years.** We need to break this tradition and start reaching out with our witness to the goodness of God's Grace in Jesus Christ and to do it with enthusiasm."

Blessings,

Pastor Barrie





## **Grief and Loss in the Midst of Transition**

Grief is activated anytime we experience a loss and/or transition. Transitions begin with endings, a closing of a chapter within one's life. Endings are the first part of a natural order of dying, chaos, and renewal that is present in God's universe. Endings are the clearing process that prepares us for personal growth and development. We here at Grace UMC have experienced several losses and transitions over the last few months. The grief process has been activated.

Generally, death and/or loss are avoided at all costs. We fear the loss of loved ones, relationships, reputation, possessions, finances, opportunities, dreams, and our future and/or past. Grief is an internal response to loss and is a normal reaction. The journey through grief involves several emotions and/or stages.

- Numbness, Denial, or Disbelief: One may have a hard time believing or acknowledging the loss. *"That person has been here their whole life; how could they have left? Our families grew up together, I don't understand!"*
- Anger and/or Depression: That life has changed and is no longer the same. *"How could they have done that! Why did they treat me/us that way? I wish we could have gotten along."*
- Bargaining or negotiating: Trying to make a deal or figure out a path to go back. *"Maybe we can get together, they might change their mind, or if I am kind enough, they will come back."*
- Acceptance or Cooperation: Acknowledging the reality of the new situation, adapting and figuring out how to cope. *"They aren't coming back. We need to move forward and do things differently."*

Persons do not move from one stage to another in a straight line.. As we live through the seasons of the year, experiencing different life events, various emotions may be triggered in each of these stages. We need to acknowledge them, learn from them, and choose to be transformed by them.

*"It is not what happens **to** us that matters so much as what happens **in** us. If I want transformation, I must let go of what could have been and pursue what can be."  
(A Grace Disguised, by G.Sittser)*

Loss and change happen at an emotional level. We need to remember that each person within our congregation may be at different places within this process. Be gentle with each other. Listen. Be present. Let God do God's work. God isn't finished with us, yet.

*So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. (2 Cor. 4:10, The Message)*

Blessings as we continue this hard journey towards a new beginning.  
Kae Tritle, RN, Community Faith Nurse

## Grace Caring Corner Our Hearts Are Full of Gratitude!

### NEW MEMBERS TO GRACE UMC

Welcome to Brett Triggs who joined on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Welcome to Bre Small who joined on June 25<sup>th</sup>.



My sincerest thanks to Grace United Methodist Church for the opportunity to serve as Choir Director for the past five years. It was a blessing to work with the singers of the choir and Ray Meyer, the talented accompanist. A special thank you to the choir for the lovely lunch on May 28<sup>th</sup> and the generous gift I received that day. I pray for a wonderful future for the church and the choir with many of God's blessings for you all.

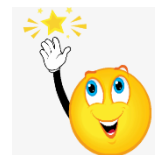
**THANK YOU** for Alison Herman and many other volunteers for your generosity in time, energy, donations and participation to the Flagfest Food Stand and the "Dinner Church" with guest musicians, Dan & Karla Tritle, on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Dan & Karla will be joining us again on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

**THANK YOU** for Kristin Schwenneker and volunteers with Vacation Bible School for donating, preparing, serving, decorating and sharing your smile and your love for Jesus with many children on June 27-29.

### MISSIONS

The Missions Committee would like to ask for assistance from all members as we are now collecting plastic bags, like those you get at the grocery store to use for a new mission project. Please bring the plastic bags to the church and place them in the LABELED cardboard box located outside the church office. We need LOTS of bags, so your help is greatly appreciated. Help us to get the ball rolling on this new Mission project.

### Office Volunteer Opportunities



Have you stopped in at the church office lately? If so, you likely were greeted by one of the volunteers who has been manning the desk, answering the phones and helping with several small tasks that pop up throughout the day. Would you like to join in? Shifts begin at 9:30 AM daily with a second shift starting at 12:30 PM and ending at 3:30 PM. Friday is the exception with one shift only from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM. For more information on how you could become an office volunteer, call Brownie Small at 262-7420.

## “Dinner Church”

Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30PM  
Fellowship Hall

Welcome back Dan & Karla Tritle  
Devotions from Pastor Barrie  
New mission project will be available.

Cooks and Volunteers Needed.  
Signup in the Narthex

### 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.

### 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

July 2—Brownie Small

July 9—Brad Johnson

July 16—Chris Ingledue

July 23—Sheryl Larson

July 31—Cyndi O'Hara

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

### Weighted Works With Love

This group will once again be participating in the Courthouse Square Farmer's Market which is scheduled to begin on Thursday, July 20, 2023. The ladies have been working hard on inventory in anticipation of the five - week event. Articles that will be offered for a suggested donation include lap pads, weighted blankets and shoulder wraps. This year we hope to offer the fidgets as well. Plan to stop at our booth (weather permitting) or come by the Fellowship Hall on the 4th Tuesday of the month to shop for our wares and visit with the ladies who have been making these therapeutic items. Want to place a customized order? Call Sue at (712)262-7604 or Brownie at (712)262-7420.

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

### Root Beer Floats at Mainstreet Market

Thursday evenings from 5pm to 8pm

July 20th through August 17<sup>th</sup>

Look for opportunities to Participate or donate in the Narthex.



## **YOUTH—Summer Games**

Spencer Grace is sending 9 youth, 1 camp counselor, and 2 adults to Summer Games at Grinnell College July 9-14th.

Camp starts Monday, where the youth will be divided into "Huddles", usually not grouped with someone from their own church. These huddles become very close throughout the week playing games against other huddles, sitting together during worship and meeting after for devotions and discussions.

A few afternoons they break into 'Satellites' of their choice; where most of our youth chose mission work, art, theology, and worship music. Jesus is the center of it all, and the youth come back with their hearts on fire for Jesus! Worship is a very moving part of this week, and I am honored to share some music and be the Monday night speaker this year, focusing on who God creating us to be.

Our youth are going to help with a significant portion of the message, so we will head down the night before to practice. Campers of all walks of faith or none are at SGU, and we don't want to assume everyone knows the story of creation. So, we are going to break it down for them using flashlights highlighting each day.

With this being said, we are looking for 7 strong flashlights to borrow and pizza money for dinner the night before. We ask for your prayers for safe travels, lives transformed, and faith brought back to be practiced and put into habit. We thank you so much for giving and supporting these youth and their faith!

Please include these youth, the counselor and adults in your prayers:

### **Youth:**

Zoie Johnson  
Sophia Wooten  
Savannah Brown  
Sydney Larson  
Ryonna Faulkender  
Lily Rohan  
Sylvia Ruden  
Maddy Muckey  
Trinity Pullen

### **Counselor:**

Jaxon Morris

### **Adults:**

Shante Whalen & Gracie Dammann  
God's blessings sent with all of you!  
By Shante Whalen

## **United Women in Faith**

Next Meeting: August 3<sup>rd</sup>

1:30 PM in the BenTena Room  
**Ruth Circle providing the program.**  
**Esther Circle providing treats.**

We will be planning for the  
September 30<sup>th</sup> CCLD Annual  
UW Faith Meeting @ Spencer Grace.  
By Jane Ingledue

## **SAVE THE DATE** **"AFTER THE FAIR"**

Kent Tritle Organ Recital  
Wednesday, September 20th  
After Wednesday Evening Meal  
@ Grace UMC, Spencer

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CORNER

## Vacation Bible School

Pets Unleashed - Where Jesus Cares "Fur" You - was the theme of Vacation Bible School this year and took place on June 27, 28, 29. The church was decorated to our theme, dog bones, cat bones, paw prints, aquariums and lots of fun areas around the church.

The kids enjoyed the Bible lessons with Pastor Barrie - learning about Jesus and how he loves each and every one of us. The key Bible verse we learned was 1 Peter 5:7 "Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you."

Day One: Jesus sheds light on how to live. Matthew 5:7

Day Two: Jesus dies and comes back to life. Luke 23:1 and Luke 24:12.

The kids enjoyed making crafts. Snacks and games are always highlights for the children, and each child was able to take home a sack lunch daily.

Everyone had a blast and we hope to see some of these wonderful smiling faces around church more often!



## Family Outreach

If you know a family that is in need of a church home, now is the time to nominate them for a pizza delivery box. We will be delivering pizza boxes filled full of games, gifts, devotionals, bible lessons and lots of love. Please nominate those you think would benefit from this, and we will do our best to reach them!

**Please fill out the form and turn into the office by July 14th.**

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

By Kristin Schweneker  
Director of Children's Ministry

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**Grace United Methodist Church**  
311 – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  
**PERMIT NO. 145**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Worship:**  
**Sunday 9:00 AM – Traditional**

**Pastor Barrie Tritle**  
[barrie.tritle@gmail.com](mailto:barrie.tritle@gmail.com)

## July 2023 Calendar of Church Events @ GUMC

**June 30, Friday**  
Office Closed

**July 1, Saturday**  
**July 2, Sunday**  
9:00 AM Worship  
Communion Service

**July 3, Monday**  
5:30 PM Mission Meeting

**July 4, Tuesday**  
Office Closed

**July 5, Wednesday**  
9:30 AM Coffee @ Grace

**July 6, Thursday**  
6:00 PM Grace Study  
7:00 PM Men's Walk to Emmaus

**July 7, Friday**  
Men's Walk to Emmaus

**July 8, Saturday**  
Men's Walk to Emmaus  
5:30 PM "Dinner Church"

**July 9, Sunday**  
9:00 AM Worship Service  
Men's Walk to Emmaus

**July 10, Monday**  
Youth—Summer Games  
6:30 PM Trustees

**July 11, Tuesday**  
Youth—Summer Games

**July 12, Wednesday**  
Youth-- Summer Games

**July 13, Thursday**  
Youth—Summer Games  
6:00 PM Grace Study  
7:00 PM Women's Walk to Emmaus

**July 14, Friday**  
Youth—Summer Games  
Women's Walk to Emmaus  
Newsletter articles to Jane @  
[jdgingledue@gmail.com](mailto:jdgingledue@gmail.com)

**July 15, Saturday**  
Women's Walk to Emmaus

**July 16, Sunday**  
9:00 AM Worship Service  
Women's Walk to Emmaus

**July 17, Monday**  
**July 18, Tuesday**  
6:30 PM SPRC

**July 19, Wednesday**  
**July 20, Thursday**  
1:30 PM Ruth Circle  
5:00 PM Root Beer Floats Mainstreet  
Market  
6:00 PM Grace Study

**July 21, Friday**  
**July 22, Saturday**  
**July 23, Sunday**  
9:00 AM Worship Service

**July 24, Monday**  
9:30 AM District UW Faith Planning  
6:30 PM Administrative Council

**July 25, Tuesday**  
9AM – 3PM Weighted Works With Love

**July 26, Wednesday**  
**July 27, Thursday**  
5:00 PM Root Beer Floats Mainstreet  
Market

**July 28, Friday**  
**July 29, Saturday**  
**July 30, Sunday**  
9:00 AM Worship Service  
**July 31, Monday**