

March 2024

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Ministers: All God's People!

Grace Mission Statement:

Everyone is invited to know and feel God's love, experience spiritual growth, encounter forgiveness, receive respect and gain hope.

Love in Action

It has been my experience here at Grace UMC, that we are a church that has found its core values. These are centered on people and how we treat them with a spirit of Grace which comes to us from God. This has not always been how we have been treated nor how we have always treated others, but it is who we are now.

The apostle Paul wrote to the Romans 12:9-13 the following:

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

We are living these instructions from Paul with our new spirit, new vitality and new life as a Church. We are answering the call to "Grow in Grace" through our personal walk with Jesus, our church outreach to our community and world, and our witness for the Gospel which is for all.

Thank you all for stepping up and pitching in as we Grow in Grace. Thank you for your contributions of time, talents, and financial gifts. Thank you for your prayers and your presence. Thank you for your unwavering confidence in God's Grace. Thank you for living into the future by joining God in what God is doing in and through Grace UMC.

A special thank you all for your Birthday wishes, and loving expressions of affirmation, cards, and variety of gifts. It has been a wonderful celebration of life and the new life of this congregation.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Barrie Tritle





The Transitions of Lent and Spring

March: the month where nature can't decide between winter and spring. I call it the month of mud!! Often that is how we feel inside as well, all muddy and messy. This is an in-between time. A transition between an ending; what was, and a beginning; what is coming. Most of us don't like the in-between times, they are confusing. We would prefer that endings and beginnings have clean-cut lines.

But in looking at nature's seasons, the in-between time is needed. When nothing appears to be happening, there is a time of waiting and preparation. There is a gathering of resources, a getting ready for action. During March when there is still snow on the ground, the sun is getting stronger and the days are getting warmer. Even before the leaf buds appear, the sap is flowing within the tree structure. For me, Lent is that in-between time; the time between the joys of Christmas and Easter. It is a time of preparation, a gathering of inner resources so that I can move towards what God has in store for me.

The Spiritual Disciplines of scripture-reading, prayer, meditation, journaling and meeting in a support/study group are methods I use to strengthen my inner resources as I cope with different endings and beginnings. The intent of the Spiritual Disciplines is to place us before God so that God can transform and heal us. By inviting God into the transition process, I cope better with my confusion and messiness. God's power and strength heals the hurts of the endings and brings me peace as I face the unknowns of the not yet. I feel less stressed and more peaceful with God involved.

Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It is wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life. (Phil. 4:6-7 The Message)

As Grace UMC continues in the transition process, may we turn to God and the Spiritual Disciplines for strength and help.

Kae Tritle, RN

Community Fatih Nurse

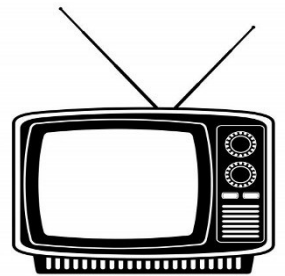
GRACE GIFT SHOP

Developing a Gift Shop at Grace UMC

We are in the beginning stages of creating a gift shop at Grace United Methodist Church. Barb Bohr will take on the leadership of this project with Lisa Elliott and Donna Todd assisting. We are hoping to add a fourth member soon. A gift shop in our church has the potential of bringing more of Christ's love to our church family, community, and world. Some products may be "Fair Trade" items which incorporate fair prices being paid to producers in developing countries. Our Christian education could be enhanced by making study books and study resources easily available in our gift shop. Inspirational cards and gifts can bring comfort and hope to those receiving them. T-shirts, water bottles, and other items with our symbolic goal of "Growing in Grace" will enhance our sense of belonging within our church family and the family of Christ. More details will emerge as planning takes place. If you have questions or suggestions, feel free to visit with our gift shop team, Pastor Barrie or myself.

Sandy Heerdt, Co-Lay Leader

SMU airing of previous Sunday worship:
Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM & Thursdays @ 10:00 AM



Catch the Spirit Broadcast on KICD costs \$70 per Sunday. Your donations to pay for our radio ministry are very much appreciated.

RightNow Media

Every person in our church can access Biblically-based videos on topics like marriage, parenting, youth, recovery, leadership, finances and much more. These videos stream anytime and from anywhere. Text the code SGUMC to 49775. Download the FREE APP and get started.

Join us for a Hymn Sing prior to the worship service every 5th Sunday of the month.

June 30, 2024

September 29, 2024

December 29, 2024

SING
UNTO THE LORD!

MISSION MINUTES

The Mission Committee would like to share with you about our next big endeavor - books for 2nd graders. We have partnered with Fairview School Principal, Mr. Olson, and the 2nd grade teachers to provide two books for every graduating 2nd grader to have to read over the summer. The seven 2nd grade teachers have compiled a “best choice” list for our committee to choose from and we have solicited the help of Lisa Elliott to help us select the books to be purchased.

For the six Sundays of Lent our noisy offering will be directed at raising money to purchase the books. There are 150 2nd grade students in our public school system. Raising money for 300 books at approximately \$5.00 is a lofty goal. However, this is our opportunity to influence the scholastic future of these young people. We would love for you to join us. Bring your loose change on Sunday mornings or drop by the church office during the week to make a donation. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Mission Chair, Brownie Small

March, 2024

Mar. 20th Pack bags.

Mar. 21st. Deliver bags

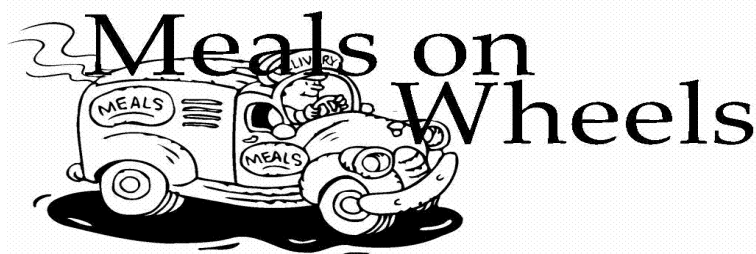
Menu for HeadStart/JumpStart

Pizza Crust Mix (provided by UDMO)

Pizza Sauce (15 oz)

Parmesan (2.5 oz-can be found at Dollar Tree)

Fruit Snacks (furnished)



“For I was hungry and you gave me food...I was sick and you visited me.”

Grace is blessed with the opportunity to feed hungry people in our own community. March is our month to deliver meals to our neighbors. This mission only takes 2 hours a day, but has a huge impact. Our assigned days are Thursday and Friday. You will find more information and a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Contact Sheryl Larson at (512) 657-1288 with any questions that you may have.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The next meeting for United Methodist Men will be March 16, 2024, at 8:00 AM.

The speaker, Karen Schwaller, is from Milford. If you haven't heard Karen before, she will have you laughing with her stories about farm life. She has written several books including "*I Married a City Boy*". Karen has been a writer and photographer all her adult life, writing news, human interest stories and columns for various publications in Northwest. She especially enjoys writing and speaking about farm life and rural living and all the gifts and challenges it presents. This meeting is sponsored by UMM.

Everyone (men, women, and children) is invited to join us for breakfast at 8:00 AM in the BenTena room.

The worship committee would like to thank those who helped with the Lenten Luncheon on February 28th. If you furnished food or helped with set up, serving, or clean up; it was all so appreciated. What a wonderful day! We certainly are Growing in Grace.



Shirts and Sweatshirts

"Grow in Grace" T-shirts are still available and will continue to be sold before and after church a couple times a month. T-shirts can still be purchased for \$10. We have youth sizes S-M-L and adult sizes with both short and long sleeves. FURTHERMORE, we will be putting in an order for SWEATSHIRTS in the near future. If you would like to order a SWEATSHIRT, call or stop in the office to place your order by March 15th. Since sweatshirts are more expensive we will take \$10 off the original cost. For questions, visit with Bri Pullen, Jane Ingledue, Sheryl Larson, or Sandy Heerdt (the T-Shirt Team).

There will be an order form available in the Church Office for short sleeve t-shirt, long sleeve t-shirt, and sweatshirt orders.

Parmesan Baked-Potato Soup

Ahead of Time:

1. Fry 8 oz. of bacon until crispy-break/chop into small pieces
2. Chop 3/4 cup of onion
3. Bake 6 potatoes, cool. Then peel and cut into 1/2 inch cubes. (I bake 9 potatoes because I like more).
4. Optional: I like to steam a cup of carrot chunks to add to the soup.

Then:

1. Cook 4.5 cups of rich chicken stock, along with chopped onion, bacon and the following seasonings (on medium) until onion is tender. (Mine evaporated a lot, so the next time I covered with a lid).

1 tsp. Basil; 1 tsp. Seasoning Salt; 1/2 tsp. Thyme; 1/2 tsp. Onion Powder;
1/2 tsp. Garlic Powder; 1/2 tsp. Sage; 1/2 tsp. Pepper; 1/2 tsp. Celery Salt

2. Add potatoes and carrots; cook 30 minutes longer.
3. In a separate saucepan, melt 1/2 cup butter and stir in 1/2 cup flour to make a smooth, thick roux. Cook, stirring constantly, until roux is very light brown. Add roux a little at a time to the soup-while soup continues to boil. Stir constantly until soup thickens (mine always thickens very fast). Reduce heat to low.
4. Add 1 cup grated parmesan cheese and 6 cups whole milk, stirring constantly. Do Not Boil. When soup reaches the heat level you prefer-you are done.

Enjoy with oyster crackers or French bread. This makes about 10 servings.





Grace United Methodist Church

311 2nd Ave West • Spencer, Iowa 51301

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office@spencergumc.com

Worship: Sunday 9:30 AM– Traditional

Pastor Barrie Tritle

barrie.tritle@gmail.com

NON-PROFIT

ORGANIZATION

U.S.POSTAGE

SPENCER, IA 51301

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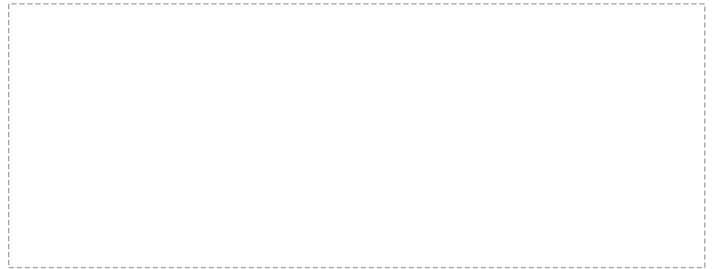
Return Service Requested

EASTER BASKET

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.
- 2 TIMOTHY 1:12 NIV



Chair Person of Ministry Boards:

Church Council: Judith Olson

Co-Lay Leaders: Sandy Heerd, Ben Pullen

Lay Member to Ann. Conference: Lenny Heerd, Jenn Ingledue, Bri Pullen

Treasurer: Sue Burdick

SPRC: Ric Guerrero

Trustee: Gary Small

Finance: Paul Kassel

Missions: Brownie Small

Memorial: Judi Calhoon

Grace Cares: Cyndi O'Hara

Worship: Linda O'Clair

Children's & Youth Ministry: Kristin Schwenneker

UWF: Cyndi O'Hara and Pastor Shurmaine McAlpine

UMM: Brad Johnson

Youth Rep: Riley Herman

Church Council Secretary: Joan Waller

Finance Secretary: Sandy Thomas



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	March 2024				1 Office Closed	2 Family Fest 9-1
3 Worship 9:30AM Fellowship 10:30AM Adult Study 10:45A	4 Yoga 10AM Missions 5:30PM	5 Worship Mtg 6PM	6 Coffee@Grace 9:30AM Yoga 10AM Men's Bible Study 1PM *Wednesday Night Schedule	7	8 Office Closed	9
10 Worship 9:30AM Fellowship 10:30AM Adult Study 10:45A Finance 10:45A	11 Yoga 10AM Blood Drive 10AM-2PM Trustees 6:30PM	12 Children's Ministry 6:30PM	13 Yoga 10AM Men's Bible Study 1PM *Wednesday Night Schedule	14	15 Office Closed	16 UMM 8:00 AM -Karen Schwaller Dinner Church
17 Worship 9:30AM Fellowship 10:30AM Adult Study 10:45A	18 Yoga 10AM	19 SPRC 6:30PM	20 Coffee@Grace 9:30AM Yoga 10AM Men's Bible Study 1PM *Wednesday Night Schedule	21 Ruth Circle 1:30PM	22 Office Closed	23
24 Worship 9:30AM Fellowship 10:30AM Adult Study 10:45A Confirmation Day	25 Yoga 10AM Church Council 6:30PM	26 WWWL 9AM-3PM Esther Circle 5PM	27 Yoga 10AM Men's Bible Study 1PM Grace Cares 3:30PM *Wednesday Night Schedule	28	29 Office Closed	30
31 Hymn Sing Worship 9:30AM Fellowship 10:30AM					<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><u>*Wednesday Night Schedule</u></p> <p>3:30 PM Loom Work Session</p> <p>5:30 PM Free Meal. (Open to the public)</p> <p>6:00 PM Grace Kidz (4 years to 5th grade)</p> <p>6:00 PM Confirmation (March 6th)</p> <p>6:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30 PM Bell Choir Practice</p> </div>	