

April 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.

The Transition Process Continues

Grace UMC continues to be in a transition process. I would like to review the progress I have seen, so you can see how far Grace UMC has come. Transitions begin with endings. Grace experienced an ending last March with the vote. Even before the vote, there were endings with changes in operational policies, programs, personnel, and participation by various persons. There have been layers of grief, hurt, and woundedness regarding many of those changes, even back to 2021.

After the experience of endings, there is a move into an “in-between or neutral time” as grief is processed and mourning happens. Alan Wolfelt’s process of mourning seems to describe what happens during this in-between time. Grace UMC has realized the death of the past and contemplated the not-yet of the future through the following:

- 1) Acknowledged of the reality of loss: that things will never be the same. Grace UMC’s identity, some of our members, and some of our past activities are gone from its present reality.
- 2) Embraced and/or befriended the loss: Grace UMC has worked to understand that its hurt and woundedness has needed healing. The woundedness hasn’t been forgotten. The Holy Spirit has been called upon to surround Grace UMC with Christ’s healing love and light, so that the pain can be transformed.
- 3) Remembering and honoring the loss: Grace UMC is moving woundedness from presence to memory. Just as Grace UMC has remembered the situations it went through and survived in its early years, it now does with the recent situation. What was is now in the past.

The woundedness and hurt is remembered and honored as Grace UMC moves through the pain into healing.



Last fall and winter, Grace UMC experienced a shift within the transition process. People started thinking less about the past and more about the future. Possibilities were explored and work began towards the future by:

4) Developing a new self-identity: Grace UMC began working on what it is becoming. This has become a time for experimentation as questions are asked, new things tried, and different avenues for ministry are searched out within our congregation and the Spencer community.

These have included: the development of “Growing in Grace” logo, identifying our core values, formulating a new vision and mission statement, and creating a covenant for our Ad Council. We have experimented with monthly Dinner Church, Wednesday night programming and/or educational opportunities, a variety of music ministries, and the re-configuration of administrative policies and the functioning of committees.

5) Searching for meaning: Grace UMC has had significance within the lives of many persons in its congregation and within the Spencer community. There is now an opportunity to create a variety of meaningful and different connections in both places.

Grace UMC re-discovered its passion for mission: making sleeping mats, working with Head Start on food bags and winter-wear, filling the Heifer Project Ark and providing books to Spencer’s 2nd graders. Vibrant worship, supportive fellowship and intercessory prayer are being experienced throughout our church community.

6) Receiving and offering on-going support: As Grace UMC continues to build a different congregational life, it is giving and receiving support from each other, community organizations, friends, neighbors, and other congregations in and around Spencer.

There is the continuation of Coffee at Grace, study groups, monthly Dinner Church, being visible in the community through the Downtown Market, Flagfest, and community/church Bridge Events. Grace UMC is participating with other churches through the Lenten Lunch and Service series, has opened its facilities to community groups, and is inviting others to participate in Grace UMC activities. Grace UMC is connecting within and beyond its church family.

This transition process will continue as Grace UMC lives into its new beginning by welcoming Pastor Michael and his family. Grace UMC will continue to explore and experiment with different ministries, will build caring community within and outside its walls, and be the presence of Christ in Spencer, IA. May God’s glory continue to shine through and among the people of Grace UMC!

“ Because you hold onto the Word of Life, may you shine like stars in the world”

(Phil 2: 16a,15b The Message)

Thank you for allowing us to walk with you on this journey. We deeply appreciate your loving support. Blessings as you continue into your future.

Kae and Barrie Tritle

Missions: JumpStart

Shopping List for April

Soft white corn Tortilla Shells (6 inch)

Canned Chicken (12.5 oz)

Black Beans **UDMO furnished**

Spanish Rice (6.8 oz)

Granola Bars-Sunbelt Bakery (Any Kind)

We will be packing the JumpStart bags on April 17th after the Wednesday morning coffee.

Please shop before April 17th.



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.

SING
UNTO THE LORD!

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

Thank you to our church family at Grace.
Your recognition of our 73rd Anniversary
means a lot to us.

Bob and Delores Barringer

Bob and Delores Barringer thank you for all
the many things people in the church have
been doing for them since getting older.
Delores especially has many problems but
she is doing the best she can.

Bob is 96 and Delores is 95.

Thank you!!

Our "Journey through Lent"
devotional has been an inspiration
to the congregation of Grace UMC.
Every devotion written was so
personal and faith filled. Thank you
to each person who wrote a
devotion, who put the booklet
together, who typed it all and who
found the perfect picture
illustrations. Each one of you has
contributed to our spiritual journey
this Lenten season.

The Grace Band wants YOU!

Do you like music?

Do you like to sing?

Do you like to play an
instrument?

Do you like being part
of a small group?

**. Did you
answer "yes"
to any of
those?**

**. Then the
Grace Band is
just for YOU!!**

If you are interested, have questions,
or would like to express interest,
please contact Sean Pulatie.

641-481-0320

SEAN.PULATIE.IA@GMAIL.COM

Blood Drives at Grace UMC

Blood Donations are scheduled out through January 2025. We are scheduled out so
that you can donate at every scheduled donation drive.

American Red Cross on Thursday, May 16, 2024 (9:00 AM-3:00 PM)

Life Serve on Thursday, July 11, 2024

American Red Cross on Thursday, September 5, 2024

Life Serve on Thursday, October 31, 2024

American Red Cross on Tuesday, January 7, 2025

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The next meeting for United Methodist Men will be April 13, 2024, at 8:00 AM.

The speaker, Val Watters, is with Habitat for Humanity. She will be speaking about their ramps program. She also may introduce the new administrator for the area Habitat for Humanity.

All men, women, and children are welcome to join us for breakfast, devotions, and information at 8:00 A.M in the BenTena room.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

As a community of women open to any woman of faith, we believe love in action can change the world. This year, UWFaith members are meeting every other month on the first Thursday with our next meeting being April 4th, at 1:30 P.M. in the Ben Tena Room. Our Honorary President, Kae Tritle, will be our speaker and our area shepherdess, Jan Yungbluth, plans to attend and share regarding district activities. All United Methodist Men, guests, and friends are invited to this time of fellowship.

June 6th is set as a Salad Potluck luncheon at 10:00 A.M. with Jessica Amendt of Spencer Discovery House as our guest speaker. This entity which provides addiction services and housing has been chosen as Esther Circle's local mission for 2024, and this talk should be very informative and inspiring. Invite a friend or two to join us.

UMCOR SUNDAY—April 7th, 2024

UMCOR Sunday (formally known as One Great Hour of Sharing) calls United Methodists to share the goodness of life with those who hurt. Your gifts to UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to share God's love with communities everywhere.

UMCOR is the humanitarian arm of The United Methodist Church. UMCOR's work reaches people in more than 80 countries, including the United States. UMCOR provides humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupts life to such an extent that communities cannot recover on their own. Learn more at www.umcor.org.

Angel Food Cake

Recipe by Shirley Spangler

Ingredients:

12 L. egg whites, room temp

1 c. sugar

1 1/2 tsp. cream of tartar

1 c. cake flour

1 1/2 tsp. vanilla

1 c. powdered sugar

Place egg whites, cream of tartar, and vanilla in a large metal bowl. Beat on high speed until soft peaks form. Continue beating and add granulated sugar until stiff peaks form. Sift cake flour and powdered sugar mixture, fold in until there are no lumps left in batter. Pour into a 9 x 13 ungreased pan and bake for 25 minutes at 350 degrees, or until top is a light golden brown. Remove from oven and invert upside-down until cool. Remove from pan and frost.

HINT: How to place the pan upside-down; prior to using the pan, place 4 coffee cups on counter and put each corner on cake pan. Make sure pan is upside-down so you can have an accurate measurement. This will allow for cake to cool and will not sink in the middle. If cake does sink, then it was either baked too long, or not long enough. Also, a raised cooling rack and its big enough for the pan, it may be used.



April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Chair Yoga 10:00 AM Missions 5:30 PM	2 Education/Outreach 6:30 PM Worship Mtg 6:00 PM	3 Coffee @Grace 9:30 AM Chair Yoga 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 1:00 PM	4 UW Faith 1:30 PM	5 Office Closed	6
7 Worship 9:30 AM Adult Education 10:45 AM	8 Chair Yoga 10:00 AM Trustees 6:30 PM	9 Children's Ministry 6:30 PM	10 Chair Yoga 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 1 PM	11	12 Office Closed	13 UMM 8:00 AM -Speaker, Kae Tritle Dinner Church 5:30 PM
14 Worship 9:30 AM Adult Education 10:45 AM	15 Chair Yoga 10:00 AM	16 SPRC 6:30 PM	17 Coffee @Grace 9:30 AM Chair Yoga 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 1:00 PM	18 Ruth Circle 1:30 PM	19 Office Closed	20
21 Worship 9:30 AM Adult Education 10:45 AM	22 Chair Yoga 10:00 AM Church Council 6:30 PM	23 WWWL 9AM-3PM Esther Circle 5:00 PM	24 Chair Yoga 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 1:00 PM	25	26 Office Closed	27
28 Worship 9:30 AM Adult Education 10:45 AM	29 Chair Yoga 10:00 AM	30				

Wednesday Night Schedule

3:30 PM Loom Work Session
 5:30 PM Free Meal. (Open to the public)
 6:00 PM Grace Kidz (4 years to 5th grade)
 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice
 7:30 PM Bell Choir Practice



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
PERMIT NO. 145

Return Service Requested



Chair Person of Ministry Boards:

Church Council: Judith Olson

Co-Lay Leaders: Sandy Heerdt, Ben Pullen

Lay Member to Ann. Conference: Lenny Heerdt, 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

Director of Communications: Alison Herman

