

May 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.



“Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson —

Greetings from your newly assigned pastor. I am having a hard time articulating all the emotions I feel in starting my time with Grace UMC. There are two pathways of experiences that are colliding; my journey and yours. At the direct location of where these paths meet it is difficult to see where they began or define the road ahead. Only those who have come from these paths can express the joys, hurts, the victories, and the losses they have encountered before converging. In due time we will share with one another what we have experienced on our journey. But even in this sharing, the only thing gained will be perception. I cannot physically go back to relive Grace UMC's best times or worst times. I can only get a glimpse of them through the perceptions and memories of those who were there. In the same way, Grace UMC cannot physically join my past experiences, whether faith forming or traumatic. And so, a new journey we must form together. This does not mean the past is lost, or forgotten, or its formation discredited. The past happened and we will forever be affected by it. But it has not concluded the definition of who we are. It does not hold sway of who we can become. So we stand together in a convergence of experiences. You look out at the terrain ahead. A man who you know very little of, steps in front of you, your family, and your loved ones, and says “This is going to be fun.”

As we begin our journey, forging our path will not be as simple as “taking the one less travelled.” It will be more like creating a new path altogether. Not only making a new path but creating new ways to forge the path as well. Most roads have a starting point and an ending. When you are creating a new trail, it makes sense to have a destination in mind. We will not be so lucky. For our destination is not a place but a relationship. That relationship is found with the Living God, in the presence of Jesus Christ, and revealed by the Holy Spirit. What is fascinating is that this person, or persons, is present with us as we blaze the trail. The relationship, or destination, is already present while also being formed. It is the “here, and not yet.” And this very presence is calling us to draw closer and discover insurmountable grace and unending love, while being sent out to share with others these life-giving experiences. We will be called to build, and we will be sent to explore. We will be called to lean into one another, and we will be commissioned out to others. And we will do so in ways we haven’t even thought of yet.

What is my role in this path forging, community building, relationship forming, ministry developing journey you might ask? I am blessed with the task of repeatedly centering our conversation by asking the questions; What is the Holy Spirit revealing to us about Jesus? In what ways is Jesus asking us to think differently? To what action is God calling us? And the only way to answer those questions is to be in constant dialogue with our God through prayer, reading of scripture, worship, and sharing together in community.

So let’s make camp. In any long-distance exploration, the party must make camp to rest and prepare. The frequency of making camp is dependent on the terrain, the members health, and the length of the journey. We have a long journey, our members, though healing, are wounded, and the terrain is unknown but projected to be extremely rough. The threefold purpose of camp is (1) to set our hearts to the mission of having a right relationship with God, (2) a right relationship with others, and (3) to share with others what we have first received in Jesus Christ. So, lets plan on setting up camp with the intention to revive, re-invigorate, and realign.

To revive, we need to take in nutrients that is healing and sustaining. With the path we will be forging it would be best to revive by checking in with your soul. I would encourage you to take on these practices if you aren’t already; journaling, participating in a support small group, and prayer. These practices help us detect the condition of our heart and soul while also discerning the best mode of care and healing. Knowing the condition of our soul sharpens our minds to be keenly aware of when we are being motivated by hurt, grief, vengeance, exclusion, and/or selfishness. When our souls are healthy, our ability to learn, grow, and serve is heightened. Being revived through the Spirit of God in the community of others puts the explorers’ mind at ease when the guide reveals the challenges ahead.

After we are revived, we can re-invigorate. To re-invigorate on this journey is to remember the reason you started. Our passion and vibrancy return, when we are reminded of God's love for us, Jesus' sacrifice for us, and the Holy Spirit's gifts for us. When we focus our attention on these things it re-dedicates our mind, body, and spirit to the mission or purpose. To re-invigorate I recommend these practices; Bible Study, worship, and prayer. These practices remind and reconnect us with God's presence with our lives through word and relationship. We find the story of God's love in scripture. We also find God's love working in the world through relationships with others. When we are revived, acknowledging the condition of our soul and we are re-invigorated, acknowledging our purpose and giftedness, we can begin preparing for the next leg of our journey.

Finally, we realign. After our party feels revived through self-reflection and constant healing, re-invigorated their passion and fervor by acknowledging the constant presence of Emmanuel, we realign our actions to move forward. Realignment makes a plan to move to the next checkpoint. It is here that we listen to our guide explain the sacrifices, risks, and challenges to come while preparing how to navigate them. The best practices to realign are; small group learning, accountability group or partnership participation, and prayer. Group learning and accountability reminds us that the steps of revive and re-invigorate need constant work and are never done. These practices call us to continue to work on our selves while we move to connect with others. Reviving, re-invigorating, and realigning are constant process. We will be making camp throughout the journey so that the focus is on God's desire for us as explorers and us as a party or church.

“The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in Him.”

-Psalm 37:23-

Every step at camp includes prayer. The threefold purpose reaches its highest potential with a praying people. The current expectation is not that you are partaking in all the practices recommended. The expectation is that you are seeking to discover the condition of your soul. It is in the condition of the soul that we discover our greatest need. There is no greater soul physician than God revealed in Jesus Christ. Prayer, being a mindfulness of God's constant presence, is the greatest tool for any Christian explorer. It is being in touch with the beginning of the journey and the destination. It is acknowledging the purpose and the reason. It is serving and being served. So, as we make camp, as we prepare for an exciting and perilous journey, begin with fervent and constant prayer. As I do the same, it will be for you. It will be for Grace UMC. It will be for the Spencer Community. It will be for the world that God has created and God loves.

~Pastor Michael Slininger

Lake Okoboji

UNITED METHODIST CAMP

- Awesome Activities
- Fun & Supportive Staff
- Positive Friendships
- Learn More About Your Faith
- Outdoor Recreation

SUMMER CAMP 2024

Get ready for a summer of new friends, cool counselors, fun-filled activities, faith formation and making memories! LOUMC has so much to offer at any age. We hope to see you this summer!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US:

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Register Today!

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FAITH, FRIENDS, FUN

Week-long Adventure Camps
2-Day Short Stacks
Day Camps & Family Camps

Get ready for a summer of new friends, cool counselors, fun-filled activities, faith formation and making memories. LOUMC has so much to offer at any age! We hope to see you this summer!

Action Packed Activities

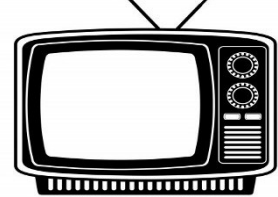
Quiet, Reflective Moments

Positive & Inviting Community

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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



May 8th will be the last night for Grace Kidz as well as our Wednesday night meals, for the summer! Keep your eyes open for other events taking place over the summer.

Please join us for a
BLOCK PARTY
TO Welcome Pastor Michael
Sunday
MAY 5
11:30A.M.- 1:30 P.M.
GRACE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH PARKING LOT
311 2ND AVE W, SPENCER, IA

FREE GAMES,
INFLATABLE, FACE
PAINTING & MORE

FREE
FOOD
& Music

The Grace Band Wants YOU!

Do you like music? . **Did you**
Do you like to sing? **answer “yes”**
Do you like to play an **to any of**
instrument? **those?**

Do you like being part . **Then the**
of a small group? **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 May 11, 2024, at 8:00 AM.

The speaker will be Rebecca Goeken from Clay County General Relief. She will be speaking about their assistance to Clay County residents who need help with rent, utility, and burial expenses.

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

Pastor Barrie and Kristin Schwenneker, Directory of Children Ministries, presented Clay Outreach (Upper Des Moines Opportunities) with a check for \$1500.00 on April 12th. This is a grant from the Grace UMC Foundation Disbursements. The money is designated for the Birthday Room Program. This program allows parents with children 8 years old and under to visit the Birthday Room and choose gifts for their child. Cake mixes, frosting, candles, plates, napkins and other birthday party items will be handed out if available. Information on Upper Des Moines Opportunity Programs can be found at <https://www.udmo.com/>



Spencer Grace United Methodist Church Council Covenant

Adopted January 29, 2024

We, the members of the Spencer Grace United Methodist Church Council, seek to be a grace filled community that is growing and learning together, with mutual respect and works together to move our church forward in faith, hope and love.

We establish this covenant, guided by the Mission that everyone is invited to know and feel God's love, experience spiritual growth, encounter forgiveness, receive respect, and gain hope.

With a spirit of Grace, we covenant to:

Put God first through prayer, scripture, and spiritual growth.

Show mutual respect for all people and opinions through careful listening and sharing.

Develop trust through confidentiality, integrity, and honesty.

Extend grace, love and forgiveness while practicing accountability and humility.

Work together toward the common goals established based on our Vision and Mission.

It shall be our practice of accountability, for when a council member falls short of fully living into our covenant, that we will speak to that team member directly. The conversation may be held either outside or within the group setting as determined by grace. Conversations of this nature shall be held within our covenant. Consistent breaches of the covenant by the same person will become a matter for the whole team to address within our covenant.

This Spencer GUMC Council Covenant was adopted January 29, 2024, by your current Church Council. Members of this Council signed this document. They are Judith Olson, Barrie Tritle, Sandy Heerdt, Ben Pullen, Lenny Heerdt, Jenn Pullen-Ingledue, Bri Pullen, Sue Burdick, Ric Guerrero, Gary Small, Paul Kassel, Brownie Small, Judi Calhoon, Cyndi O'Hara, Linda O'Clair, Kristin Schwenneker, Shurmaine McAlpine, Brad Johnson, Riley Herman, Joan Waller, Sandy Thomas, and Alison Herman.

This was a labor of love for our church and community, and our love of God.

Judith Olson (Church Council Chair) Judith Olson

Barrie Tritle (Interim Pastor) Barrie Tritle

Sandy Heerdt (Lay Leader) Sandy Heerdt

Ben Pullen (Lay Leader) Ben Pullen

Lenny Heerdt (Lay Member to Annual Conference) Lenny Heerdt

Jenn Ingledue (Lay Member to Annual Conference) Jenn Ingledue

Brianna Pullen (Lay Member to Annual Conference) Brianna Pullen

Sue Burdick (Treasurer) Sue Burdick

Ric Guerrero (SPRC) Ric Guerrero

Gary Small (Trustees) Gary Small

Paul Kassel (Finance) Paul Kassel

Brownie Small (Missions) Brownie Small

Judi Calhoon (Memorial) Judi Calhoon

Cyndi O'Hara (Grace Cares) Cyndi O'Hara

Linda O'Clair (Worship) Linda O'Clair

Kristin Schwenneker (Children & Youth Ministry) Kristin Schwenneker

Pastor Shurmaine McAlpine (UWF) Shurmaine McAlpine

Brad Johnson (UMM) Brad Johnson

Riley Herman (Youth Rep) Riley Herman

Joan Waller (Church Council Secretary) Joan Waller

Sandy Thomas (Finance Secretary) Sandy Thomas

Alison Herman (Director of Communications) Alison Herman

Colors in the Sanctuary

Why do the colors of the tablecloth and wall hangings change in the sanctuary?

One of the tasks of the Worship Committee is to remind us as we worship that ours is a living, ever-present God, with us in all the seasons of life. Liturgical color is more than simply decorative. It helps to express the changing church seasons which symbolize the shifting mood as we gather to worship.

Currently, during the Easter season, the focus color is white, representing light, glory, and joy. We celebrate that we are continually being made new by God's love and saving grace.

Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter, or the 7th Sunday after Easter. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and other followers of Jesus as described in Acts 2:1-41 and is often called the birthday of the Church. This year, Pentecost is on May 19th. Red is the color of Pentecost, symbolizing the Holy Spirit's arrival with tongues of fire. It would be a good Sunday to wear something red!

Watch the newsletter for updates on what and why the color for the season is what it is.

WE ARE EASTER PEOPLE

Grace Cares shared Easter Blessings with our congregational care participants by delivering bags or mailing Easter cards. We continue to connect and share God's love with approximately 45 of our Grace UMC family who are in care centers, have health concerns, and those who have difficulty getting out. If you are aware of anyone who should be included in congregational care or if you would like to be part of our care team, please advise Cyndi O'Hara (712-363-3185) or the church office (712-262-5970).

We are also in the process of resurrecting the Grace Church connection with our college youth. Please contact Cyndi or the church office with names and addresses of those members attending college at this time.

2024 FOUNDATION DISBURSEMENTS

The Foundation Disbursement Committee met on March 21, 2024 with all members present to review this year's applications. This year we have a total of \$73,326.47 to distribute based on 5% of the foundation's assets between the four categories.

There were 12 foundation requests for Global and Local Missions and found them all to meet our funding guidelines, disbursing \$17,750.00 for which projects as books for 2nd graders, Jump Start, winter clothing for children, Heifer Project, and the Okoboji Methodist Camp. Funding also will go to Midwest Missions, The Banquet, and Many Hands for Haiti.

The total of \$26,331.62 will go toward Capital Improvements to be utilized by the Trustees and to begin refurbishing the Grace bells.

Outreach and Emerging Ministries was allotted \$20,000.00 plus other unused funds from previous years were found to go toward worship items, bell choir supplies, updating of our website, cameras for livestreaming, kitchen needs, and the creation of an in-church gift shop.

Our fourth category is Educational Opportunities with \$9,244.85 going towards Vacation Bible School and other youth activities, summer camps for Grace Kidz, speakers and spiritual growth for United Methodist Men, and other ministries under the direction of our new pastor.

The disbursement committee was very pleased with the thought and vision of the applications, and we thank all who took the initiative to secure and invest these funds in the ongoing ministry of Grace UMC.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the foundation disbursements, you may contact any of the committee members: Lenny Heerdt, Judith Olson, Karen Seversen, Bernie Beecher or Cyndi O'Hara.

T-shirts – T-Shirts - T-Shirts

Our Team T-shirts have been a great success on several levels.

Our T-shirts were originally designed to help bring us together – eyes on serving Jesus – with ENTHUSIASM. Teams create goals, follow their coach, work together, support each other, recruit more players, build leadership, and celebrate together. This was one of the many goals our church set up in the past year and everyone got on board.

About 180 T-shirts and sweatshirts have gone out to members and friends. We are praising God for the love and guidance He has sent our way.

We believe almost everyone who wants a T-shirt has received one but are ready to place one more group order which will be our last that is supplemented by Church Outreach funds. After this order we will then have our t-shirts available through individual orders at full cost, directly from the “Pineapple Shop” run by Kristin Schwenneker.

The deadline for our last group order for T-shirts, Sweatshirts, or zippered hoodies with the church \$10 Discount is Thursday May 16th. We hope to have them available before Flag Fest so everyone can wear them.

Special thanks to Pastor Barrie for guiding us through this process and the T-shirt team: Jane Ingledue, Sheryl Larson, Bri Pullen and Sandy Heerd.





The Kitchen Team is declaring June as “Clean the Kitchens” Month.

We are compiling a list of jobs that need to be done. They are tasks above and beyond standard cleaning. Some might be easy and quick. Some might take more time. You can do these tasks as an individual or partner with a friend.

Samples of jobs are:

- Wash all the glasses in the Fellowship Hall Kitchen
- Go through the drawers in the BenTena Kitchen, organize and clean.
- Take everything out of the refrigerators, discard expired items and clean the interiors

We will work in the Fellowship Hall, BenTena and Narthex Kitchens. The goal is to do a thorough cleaning in increments. There may also be some jobs outside of the kitchens in the Sanctuary, Narthex, BenTena Room or Fellowship Hall.

The list will be in the Narthex, where you can sign up and once it is done, put a Gold Star on the board next to the task.

All cleaning supplies will be available and provided by the trustees. If you see something that needs to be done that is not on the board, you can add it!

On Saturday, June 22nd we will have a group cleaning day from 9 until 11 . We will have a little fellowship along with cleaning, or for those not able to clean during the week but want to participate. If all the jobs are done, we will just have to find more!

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Kitchen Team: Alison Herman, Bonnie Foust, Jamie Horning and Abbie Grooms.

How to Recognize and Report Spam Text Messages

If you have a cell phone, you probably use it dozens of times a day to text people you know. But have you ever gotten a text message from an unknown sender? It could be a scammer trying to steal your personal and financial information. Here's how to handle and report unwanted text messages.

Spam Text Messages and Phishing

Scammers send fake text messages to trick you into giving them your personal information — things like your password, account number, or Social Security number. If they get that information, they could gain access to your email, bank, or other accounts. Or they could sell your information to other scammers.

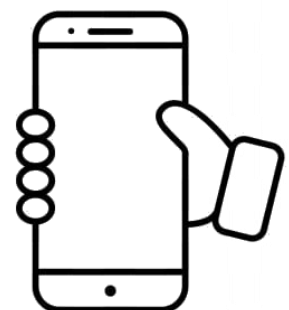
Scammers often try to get you to click on links in text messages by promising you something. Scammers also send fake messages that say they have information about your account or a transaction. Scammers might

- promise free prizes, cards, or coupons.
- offer you a low or no interest credit card.
- say they've noticed some suspicious activity on your account
- claim there's a problem with your payment information
- send you a package delivery notification

The messages might ask you to give some personal information — like how much money you make, how much you owe, or your bank account, credit card, or Social Security number — to claim your gift or pursue the offer. Or they might tell you to click on a link to learn more about the issue. Some links might take you to a spoofed website that looks real but isn't. If you log in, the scammers then might steal your username and password.

Other messages might install harmful malware on your phone that steals your personal or financial information without you realizing it.

Continued on page 14.....



What To Do About Spam Text Messages

If you get a text message you weren't expecting and it asks you to give some personal or financial information, don't click on any links. Legitimate companies won't ask for information about your account by text.

If you think the message might be real, contact the company using a phone number or website you know is real. Not the information in the text message. Your phone may have an option to filter and block spam or messages from unknown senders.

How To Report Spam Text Messages

If you get an unwanted text message, there are three ways to report it:

- Copy the message and forward it to 7726 (SPAM). This helps your wireless provider spot and block similar messages in the future.
- Report it on the messaging app you use. Look for the option to report junk or spam.
- Report it to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/ReportFraud).

For the complete article:

<https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-report-spam-text-messages>



Dear Grace UMC Friends,

Kae and I want to say that it has been an honor and privilege to walk with you this past year through the process of healing. We are amazed at the work of God's grace in the transformation of Grace UMC into an active, vibrant worshipping and caring faith community. Just as Grace has become transformed, we too have become changed persons because of your love, hospitality, willingness, and inspiration of being God's Love with skin on. We pledge to continue to hold you in our hearts and in our prayers.

We have been blessed by your appreciative words, gifts and cards, caring deeds and hopeful hearts during Ministry Appreciation month, Barrie's birthday, Christmas, Easter, and now our Farewell celebration party and closing worship service.

Blessings in your continuing journey of Growing in Grace. Keep moving forward with God and do it with Enthusiasm!

With grateful hearts,
Barrie and Kae Tritle.

Farewell

Cheeseball Spread

Recipe by Pullen Family

Ingredients:

2 pkg (8 oz each) soft cream cheese

1 pkg dry ranch packet

2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

OPTIONS: You can mix in different kinds to your taste. You can add more cheese than the 2 cups if you'd like. We do not truly measure things out. You can add in bacon, sour cream, green onions, nuts, and other seasons to your taste.

Wash your hands and mix together the cream cheese, shredded cheese, and dry ranch packet with your hands or a large spoon. Once mixed well, form into a ball. Place in the fridge to chill before serving, for best results.

Serve with Crackers (Ritz is our go-to) or Chips (Fritos is our go-to chip).

Enjoy!





Grace United Methodist Church
311 2nd Ave West • Spencer, Iowa 51301
(712) 262-5970 • www.spencergumc.com
office@spencergumc.com

Worship:
Sunday 9:30 AM- Traditional

Pastor Michael Slininger
thepastor@spencergumc.com

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Return Service Requested



"If you're ever headed the wrong way in life, remember the road to Heaven allows U-turns."



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 Schweneker

UWF: Cyndi O'Hara and Pastor Shumaine McAlpine

UMM: Brad Johnson

Youth Rep: Riley Heman

Church Council Secretary: Joan Waller

Finance Secretary: Sandy Thomas

Director of Communications: Alison Heman



"I looked, and the Ten Commandments don't say *anything* about running with scissors!"

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Wednesday Night Meal & Grace Kidz last night is May 8! Bells last day is May 5. Choir last day is May 19.						
5 Worship 9:30 AM Adult Education 10:45 AM Block Party 11:30-1:30 District Conference 3PM	6 Chair Yoga 10:00 AM Missions 5:30 PM	7 Chamber Welcome 9:30 AM Worship Committee 6:00 PM	8 Chair Yoga 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 1 PM	9 Chair Yoga 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 1 PM	10 Office Closed	11 UMM 8:00 AM -Speaker, Rebecca Goeken
12 Mother's Day Worship 9:30 AM Adult Education 10:45 AM	13 Chair Yoga 10:00 AM Trustees 6:30 PM	14 Children's Ministry 6:30 PM	15 Coffee @Grace 9:30 AM Chair Yoga 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 1:00 PM	16 Red Cross Blood Drive 9AM-3PM Ruth Circle 1:30 PM	17 Office Closed	18 Riley Herman Grad Party @ Oneota 1- 4PM
19 Graduation Sunday Worship 9:30 AM Adult Education 10:45 AM Finance Mtg 6:00 PM	20 Chair Yoga 10:00 AM Church Council 6:30 PM	21 SPRC 6:30 PM	22 Chair Yoga 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 1:00 PM Grace Cares 3:30 PM	23 Chair Yoga 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 1:00 PM Grace Cares 3:30 PM	24 Office Closed	25 Office Closed
26 Worship 9:30 AM Adult Education 10:45 AM	27 Memorial Day Office Closed	28 WWWL 9 AM-3 PM Esther Circle 5:00 PM	29	30	31 Office Closed	

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