

June 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.



“Belonging is never a state that is permanently achieved. It is something we continually monitor and evaluate.” -Owen Eastwood-

Whether planned or not, I began reading the book, Belonging: The Ancient Code of Togetherness, by Owen Eastwood about 2 weeks ago. Eastwood delves into his educational and professional experiences to present a theory of what is needed to create a positive culture that impacts a team's success, in either sport or business. He starts with discussing concepts he defines as the “Us” story, shared purpose, and collective vision. The eclipse of reading this book while starting at Grace UMC has shed light on what to look for as I discern my own sense of belonging and how to help others with theirs.

Mark 3:11 “Jesus went up on a mountain and called those he wanted, and they came to him.”

Do you feel a sense of belonging at Grace UMC? Where does that belonging come from? Was there a life event or relationship that solidified your sense of solidarity? Maybe there was a ministry program that was happening at just the right season of your life that sparked a bond. When you pool these origin stories together, we may discover a theme that explains the “Us” story described by Eastwood. At the root of Grace UMC's “Us” story the shared purpose and collective vision can be dug out and replanted repeatedly. As time presses on, an elaborate garden begins to form, revealing the impact of that shared purpose on the entire community.

I am already seeing a sense of belonging rooted in how Grace welcomes all who enter. So many of you have a gift of hospitality and are ready to serve anyone who ventures through our doors. I put myself in this category as you have loved my family and me as we have entered this parish. I have also seen how this is not simply privileged treatment, because I am the new pastor. The loving treatment and care you have shown me I have witnessed you provide for others.

I invite you to keep the idea of belonging in the forefront of your minds as we learn, worship, and serve together. Contemplate how your sense of belonging at Grace UMC continues to evolve. Be intentional of considering others' sense of belonging as it impacts their presence and participation. And always be reminded that Jesus welcomes us all in unconditional love. Jesus offers the greatest sense of belonging. As our Creator, God knows us through and through. The Holy Spirit continues to renew us every day. Through Jesus, we belong to God. Jesus also commissions us to serve and belong with others. And God calls us to guide others to discover their own sense of belonging. I am privileged to be here. I pray you feel the same. I pray even more that we help others discover Jesus' invitation of belonging.

~Pastor Michael Slininger



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.

Life Serve on Thursday, July 11, 2024 (1PM-6PM)

American Red Cross on Thursday, September 5, 2024 (9AM-3PM)

Life Serve on Thursday, October 31, 2024 (1PM-6PM)

American Red Cross on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 (9AM-3PM)

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!

WEIGHTED WORKS WITH LOVE

Weighted Works With Love have been building a nice inventory of weighted items over the past couple of months. The group sews weighted items here at Grace UMC on the 4th Tuesday of the month in Fellowship Hall. If you know someone who might be interested in a weighted item please share our contact information with them or let them know that they can visit us in person on our sewing day between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. To place an order or to receive more information about weighted lap pads, custom weighted blankets or shoulder wraps please call Brownie Small at 712-262-7420 or Sue Hitchcock at 262-7604.

~Brownie Small, WWWL Member

TRUSTEES

The Trustees are glad to report that the Education Wing bathroom remodel is nearly completed. To date, they are waiting for correct entry doors and the window replacements to arrive and be installed. The Trustees are asking if anyone would like to assist in decorating the bathrooms. Please contact Gary Small at 712-346-8184 if you are interested. Next on the remodel list will be replacement of the kitchen floor.

The plaque honoring the Gary Hudson family has found it's place in the Grace UMC library. It seemed only fitting as Gary's education was in Library Science and he spent his professional career in several college libraries.

~Gary Small, Trustees Chair

MISSIONS

May was the last month for JumpStart bags until Fall. The bags full of snack items collected in May included microwave popcorn, Goldfish Crackers, Snack Pack gelatins or pudding, Grape Jelly, Belvita cookies (donated by Pastor Barrie's son) and peanut butter furnished by UDMO. For the summer we will be collecting paper products and personal hygiene products that will be delivered to Head Start when classes resume in the Fall. Please shop for these items and bring them as you make your purchases to the church and place them in dedicated boxes that will be available in the Narthex. The Head Start families who receive our help are most grateful.

Missions would like to keep the enthusiasm going for mat weaving during the summer. Scheduled time to work on the mat project will be Wednesdays from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Stop in to enjoy some fellowship with other mat makers. The mat project is a "many hands make light work" endeavor. To date, 45 mats have been completed.

The books for the graduating 2nd graders will have been delivered by the time of this writing. Keith Bress agreed to take photos of teachers unpacking the boxes and was planning to post them on the bulletin board outside the office. Our prayer is that the children who received this precious gift are enjoying this reading experience. Thank you again Grace UMC congregation for making this project possible through the noisy offering.

The Missions committee is planning a church wide rummage sale June 28-29. Most items will be available for purchase through a free will donation. Some select items may also be priced. Donated items to sell can be brought to the Fellowship Hall entrance any time after 1:00 PM on June 25th, or anytime the 26th and 27th. Small house furnishings and household items, yard tools, other household goods and items suitable for rummage sale are encouraged. NO CLOTHING, NO LARGE APPLIANCES, NO ELECTRONICS can be accepted for this sale. Doors will be open for the sale on Friday June 28th from 8:00 AM-2:00 PM. For a suggested donation, a light lunch will be available from 11:30-1:30 PM on Friday. Sale hours on Saturday will be 9:00 AM until noon. So, clean out those cupboards and closets and bring your donated items to the Fellowship Hall.

All proceeds from the Missions rummage sale will go toward Missions projects such as Coats for Kids.

~Brownie Small, Missions Chair



The Christian year is moving into its longest season. After Pentecost, which was May 19th, with red banners and red on the Communion table, followed by Trinity Sunday on May 26th, we move into “Ordinary Time.” However, there is nothing ordinary about it.

The word “ordinary” here does not mean “routine” or “not special”. Instead, it refers to the “ordinal numbers” (first, second, third, etc.) used to name and count the Sundays (such as the Third Sunday after Pentecost). This term comes from the Latin *ordinalis*, meaning “numbered” or “ordered,” and *tempus ordinarium*, “measured time.”

Every year, Christians experience the contrast between the central seasons of Christmas and Easter, where we see God in the events around the coming of Christ, and the in-between times, where we see, speak about and join God’s ongoing work in the world.

All summer long, the focus is on joining God’s ongoing work in the world. The color for this season, which runs to the first Sunday of Advent, is green. Green is an alive, active, growing color.

~The Worship Committee



June is “Clean the Kitchens” Month. In the Narthex, there is a list of jobs that need to be done. Some are easy and quick; some will take more time. Our goal is to give the kitchens a thorough cleaning. You can do these tasks as an individual or partner with a friend. Pick a task and a time to do it. When you are done, mark it as done on the chart, and write your name and date. Cleaning supplies will be provided by the Trustees. (If you would like to clean outside of office hours, please talk to office staff).

On Saturday, June 22nd, we will have a group cleaning day from 9 until 11. We will have a little fellowship along with cleaning! If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Kitchen Team: Alison Herman, Bonnie Foust, Jamie Horning or Abbie Grooms.

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SAT JUNE 8TH
311 2ND AVE W - SPENCER
AT THE END OF THE PARADE ROUTE

POPCORN DURING THE PARADE

LUNCH AFTER THE PARADE
Walking Taco, Bars and Water or Coffee

VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS NEEDED
Sign-up in the Narthex

FREE WILL OFFERING

2024 Senior Blabaum Scholarship Awards

Congratulations to our Grace United Methodist Church 2024 recipients of the Blabaum Scholarship awards: Abigail O'Clair and Riley Herman. They will each have \$1,555.50 forwarded to their college of choice for the 2024-2025 school year. Abby is headed to UNI in Cedar Falls to pursue an elementary education degree. Riley has decided to begin her schooling at DMACC in the Des Moines area toward a career in mortuary science.

The Foundation Disbursement Committee was very impressed with the academic success along with the school and community involvement of our senior applicants this year. Your Grace Church family wishes you both much success in your college years ahead and hope you will stay connected with your sponsoring church family and your faith roots.

~Foundation Disbursement Committee

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith will be hosting their next meeting on Thursday, June 6, starting at 10:00 AM in the BenTena Room. We are specially inviting our honorary UWFaith members along with any guests to join us for this potluck salad luncheon. We are hoping that our new pastor's wife, Rachel, will be able to be with us. Our program speaker will be Jessica Amendt from Spencer Discovery House. Our twenty-one new books from the 2024 Reading List have also arrived and will be on display.

Victory Vegetables

The Iowa UMC Conference is challenging congregations to plant Victory Gardens to benefit the health of our communities and to support those suffering food insecurity.

Your Grace Missions Committee is putting a twist on the idea. We will be expanding our summer produce table where people have shared their surplus garden bounty. This year we are asking you to continue to bring in your extra vegetables or fruits. What isn't taken home by church friends on Sunday, will be taken to Upper Des Moines Opportunity, the Little Pantry at the library, or other food distribution points. There will be a table in the Narthex and boxes for large donations.

There are still plenty of plants available at local retailers. Consider planting a few extra vegetables to support Victory Vegetables and our community.

Vacation Bible School

August 4-9 from 5:30 PM-7:45PM-We are looking for any and all helpers that can commit to some or all evenings. A FREE t-shirt will be provided to anyone that helps! Let Kristin know if you are interested and can help! kschwenneker@yahoo.com or 712-363-2063. Looking forward to lots of helpers and new faces walking through our doors!

Looking for shoe boxes that have an attached lid on them for a craft at vacation bible school-please save them if you have one or some! We will be making a treasure chest for the kids to load with bible verses, pictures, memories and more!

Saturday, June 8th: Seeking a few people to help hand out flyers just walking up and down the Flagfest parade route on the sidewalk, not in the parade. All information will be put together for you, you simply just walk, smile and greet all the kids waiting for the parade with ENTHUSIASM! Let Kristin know if you are interested and can help!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl display in the Narthex has just a few of the beautiful shawls that are available to be delivered to a family member or a friend. There are more prayer shawls and newborn baby blankets in the Work Room in a cupboard in the Church Office. All of these shawls and blankets have been blessed while crocheter or knitter is stitching. United Women in Faith is a part of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. The Prayer Shawl Ministry Team prays for God to bless the person who receives a shawl. Each Prayer Shawl or baby blanket includes a greeting card and a brochure with information about the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Here is a partial message on the Prayer Shawl greeting card:

*May God's grace be upon you as you wear this shawl...
warming, comforting, enfolding, and embracing you.*

May this mantle be a safe haven...

A sacred place of security and well-being...

Sustaining and embracing you in good times

As well as difficult ones.

As you receive this shawl, may you be cradled in hope,

Graced with peace, and wrapped in love.

Blessings to you!

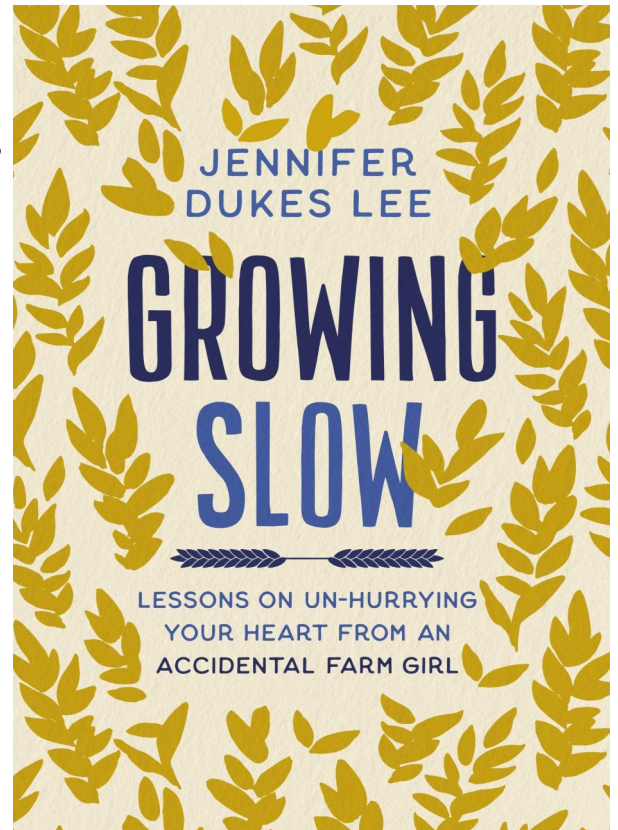
With love from,

United Women in Faith, c/o Grace United Methodist Church

Who do you know that needs a visit and would appreciate a warm, comforting and beautiful Prayer Shawl or a family, grandparent who recently had a newborn baby to enjoy a baby blanket? Thank you to Linda Bress who crocheted special prayer shawls for our graduating High School Seniors in their choice of school colors.

Okoboji Women's Bible Conference

Jennifer Dukes Lee is the featured luncheon speaker on Wednesday, August 7th, at 1:00 PM, at the Okoboji Conference. Jennifer lives with her family on a 5th generation family farm near Inwood, Iowa. She has authored several books, including **Growing Slow**, which tells about a year of seasons on the family farm and her own "growing slow" experiences there to strengthen her faith. Some of you were involved with a Zoom Bible study on the **Growing Slow** book led by Dorothy DeGroot in January-February, 2024.



Tables fill up rapidly at the Lake Okoboji Resort and Conference Center (formerly Arrowwood Resort). Reserve tickets can be purchased as early as June 3rd. Ask Dorothy DeGroot or sign up in the office to order your \$30 ticket (pre-pay).

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.

SEAN.PULATIE.IA@GMAIL.COM

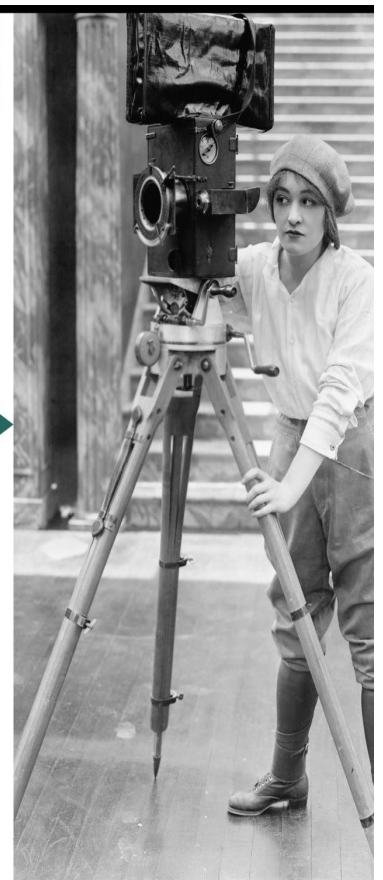
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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Camera Operator

JOIN US!

We have added 2 cameras in the Sanctuary to enhance our live stream option. Assistance is needed in the media booth. Please talk to Alison if you are interested.



Two-Tone Brownies

Recipe by Mrs. Ralph Tritle, Dickinson Co.

Set out 11x15x1" baking sheet. Set oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

Sift: 2/3 c. flour

1/2 tsp. soda

1/4 tsp. salt

Stir in: 1 c. brown sugar

2 c. oatmeal

Mix in: 2/3 c. shortening

Pat into ungreased baking pan.

Bake 10 minutes.

For top layer:

Melt: 1/2 c. shortening

2 oz. baking chocolate

Stir in: 1 & 1/2 c. sugar

2 eggs

1 tsp. vanilla

Mix well.

Add: 1/2 c. milk

Sift, add: 1 & 1/3 c. flour

1/2 tsp. baking powder

1/2 tsp. salt

Spread over baked layer, then return to oven for 30 minutes or until cake part is done. Frost with chocolate frosting. Cut as desired.

TWO-TONE BROWNIES

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*cut into
diamonds for
tea - and
syrup bars for
with coffee*

*If any are
left - freeze
them.*

Foundation funds of \$1900 given to Okoboji UMC Camp.



Ways that our funds helped the Camp:

- Chairs-Conference Room/Office: \$1000
 - Chairs are used by campers, retreat guests, board members and summer staff.
 - The chairs we have are ripped and continually lower after being raised.
- Go-Pro Camera & Cricut Maker: \$600
 - Go-Pro would be used to make videos to share with camper families and friends, churches, etc. Cricut maker is a printer used to cut out specific shapes and designs. We would use it for displays, crafts, and other summer camp programming.
- Chain Saw: \$600-\$700
 - Camp is in need of some updated maintenance supplies. A new, more powerful chainsaw is on that list.
- Gear for Climbing tower/Aerial Park: \$750
 - New helmets, harnesses, gloves: Gear is retired after several years of use. Camp has some items that are on their last year of use.



Spencer Reads is a program that focuses on improving reading levels of students in 2nd-3rd grade. This is a hope that they will not lose ground in learning to read during the summer months.

“Experts tell us a child’s ability to read at grade level by third grade is the single greatest predictor of future success. This is the time when they begin to transition from learning to read, to reading to learn. We want all kids in Spencer to thrive and succeed in life.”-Rev. Dr. Barrie Tritle

Books were donated to the upcoming 3rd graders in Spencer Schools. Each child was able to choose 2 books from the 12 different books available.

Our Grace congregation raised money through the noisy offering, to purchase them from Scholastic Books.

Pictured above is Fairview Elementary School’s Administrative Assistant, Hayley English.

June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Worship Service 9:30 AM Adult Education 10:45 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM	3 Yoga 10:00 AM Missions 5:30 PM	4 Worship 6:00 PM SPRC 5:00 PM	5 Coffee @ Grace 9:30 AM Yoga 10:00 AM Loom Work Session 2-4 PM	6 UWFaith Lunch 10:00 AM	7 Annual Conference Office Closed	8 Annual Conference FlagFest
9 Annual Conference Worship Service 9:30 AM Finance Mtg 10:45 AM Adult Education 10:45 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM	10 Yoga 10:00 AM Trustees 6:30 PM	11 Children's Ministry 6:30 PM	12 Yoga 10:00 AM Loom Work Session 2-4 PM	13	14 Office Closed Flag Day	15
16 Father's Day Worship Service 9:30 AM Adult Education 10:45 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM	17 Yoga 10:00 AM	18	19 Coffee @ Grace 9:30 AM Yoga 10:00 AM Loom Work Session 2-4 PM	20 Ruth Circle 1:30 PM	21 Office Closed	22 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Kitchen Cleaning
23 Worship Service 9:30 AM Adult Education 10:45 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM	24 Yoga 10:00 AM Church Council 6:30 PM	25 WWWL 9-3 Esther Circle 5:00 PM Bring Rummage Sale Items to FellowShipHall 1:00-3:30 PM	26 Yoga 10:00 AM Loom Work Session 2-4 PM Grace Cares 3:30 PM Bring Rummage Sale Items	27 Bring Rummage Sale Items	28 Office Closed Rummage Sale	29 Rummage Sale
30 Hymn Sing 9:00 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Adult Education 10:45 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM						



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 Skringer
thepastor@spencergumc.com

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
SPENCER, IA 51301
PERMIT NO. 145

Return Service Requested

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By **St. Hilarie**



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

