

September 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.



"We all admire great accomplishments in the sciences, arts, and humanities – but we rarely acknowledge how much we achieve in the course of our everyday lives."

-Marvin Minsky-

I am blessed to have two kids (an 8-year-old and an 11-month-old). Since having kids, I have discovered the amount of work that is done that goes unnoticed. It is a common emotion at the end of the day to feel as if nothing of importance was accomplished. If I truly tallied all the tasks that were completed the list would be quite lengthy. Despite being busy most of the day, my perception of the impact of the tasks is less than desired.

As Grace UMC recovers from the flood and continues to be in a season of identity reformation, I will be drawing our attention to defining discipleship in the midst of our activities and learning. As I have grown in the church, discussions around discipleship have often made me feel the same way as ending my days working and caring for two children. I am often left with a feeling that I have not accomplished all that I wanted to achieve, and what I have achieved have not been done well. Often, discipleship can be seen as a task list of spiritual formation. What if we learned about discipleship as a mindset rather than a set of rules or a to-do list. I invite you to start this school year by writing down your definition of a disciple. Get specific. What does a disciple look like? What does a disciple do? How is a disciple different from a non-disciple? I invite you to define a disciple not in the effort to claim what it is, but rather to be ready to see the definition change. We cannot alter our thinking if we don't claim our present understanding.

When my head hits the pillow and my mind begins to wander to unaccomplished tasks or under achieving, I stop. I take a deep breath. I ask myself these questions; do my kids know that I love them? How do I know? Reshaping my thinking helps redefine how I go about parenting. It doesn't take away the tasks that need to get done. But it does change how I evaluate the success of the day. I want to add the question to my nighttime meditation; does the world know I love Jesus? How do they know? This is how I want to encourage you to rethink discipleship. There are tasks we all could be doing better or more often. Rather than focusing on that, lets learn how we can live in such a way that if we ask ourselves, at the end of the day, "does the world know I love God?" we can say yes. And when there are days, we say no, we are willing to confess, receive forgiveness, and try again the next day.

"Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me..." -Luke 9:23-

~Pastor Michael Slininger



Church office will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, September 2nd**, in observance of Labor Day.



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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 (11AM-5PM)

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



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.

September 29, 2024 (Cancelled)

December 29, 2024 (Tentatively)

SING
UNTO THE LORD!

WEIGHTED WORKS WITH LOVE

When the flood compromised the electricity at the United Methodist Church, it did not deter the WWWL community for one minute. Due to the generosity of the folks at Bethany Lutheran Church we temporarily moved our group to their lower level and it has been business as usual. If you are interested in visiting us at our temporary home, please stop by. There will be a phone number to call posted on the entry door. We will be right up to greet you. On August 8th our group participated in Ruthven's "Get together on Gowrie" along with several other vendors for an evening of crafts, good food, fun kids activities, and a car show. We had the opportunity to show our wares and educate a whole new group of people about weighted blankets, lap pads and shoulder wraps. There was a lot of interest and we were able to get a few of our items into the hands of new people. The ladies have also been working to increase our supply of weighted blankets, lap pads and shoulder wraps. So if there is something you are looking for, or if you would like to place an order for a special item, this might be a good time. We continue to sew the 4th Tuesday of the month from 9AM to 3PM.

To place an order please call:

Sue Hitchcock at 262-7604 or Brownie Small at 262-7420 or stop in at Bethany.
Brownie Small WWWL Volunteer

~Brownie Small, WWWL Member

Worship Committee request...

We are in need of Christmas trees to decorate our Sanctuary and Narthex in December. All of our Advent and Christmas decor was stored in the church basement and flooded. Those of you who were not flooded may have something you could donate. Our banners are in fine shape as they are stored behind the sanctuary. We need trees, possibly lights, and garland. And it would be nice to have a large Nativity set. As you do your fall cleaning, keep this in mind. Thank you.

Trustees Report:

Flood Summary:

In case you had not heard, it is estimated that Grace Church's lower level took on approximately 700,000 gallons of flood water during the city wide flood on June 22. After prayerful consideration, we spent the next week pumping the water from the main part of the basement and another week pumping water from the "dirt room" located under the sanctuary. Several volunteer groups then came in to assist with removing all the debris that was located in the lower level. The piles at the curb were enormous. 8 Days of Hope, several church members and other members of the community worked tirelessly. After the lower level was finally emptied, three large commercial dehumidifiers were rented and they ran 24/7 for 30 days. Now we are circulating fresh air with six fans as we continue to work on the drying process. We are now in the midst of the three phase process to clean, disinfect and apply mold protection to the areas affected by flood waters. To date, we have limited electrical capability, internet and telephone service, are able to conduct daily business out of the church office, and have been able to offer in-house church services in the Fellowship Hall, as well as live stream it to our internet followers. The Trustees have been able to secure the services of an electrician, plumbing and heating contractors, air conditioning and elevator contractors, as well as sound system specialists. In addition, our maintenance person, Dan Harris, has returned to work and has been busy cleaning, has installed the new main kitchen floor, and has worked on several other projects too numerous to mention. With each step we feel that we have been moving in the right direction, but everything takes time. We ask your continued patience as we move forward with this lengthy post flood process.

Thank you, Gary Small, Trustees Chair

September 25th, 2024

On September 25th, we will be having our Wednesday night meal. We intend to do a grill-out at the church. Due to the nature of grilling and making sure we have enough meat for everybody, we are asking that you [RSVP](#) by September 22nd if you intend to attend.



Please call the office at 712-262-5970 or email us at
office@spencergumc.com
or
bpullen@spencergumc.com

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

A regular meeting of UWFaith was held on August 1, 2024, at which time it was determined that an in-person bazaar, meal and fundraiser for the end of September was not going to be feasible due to the flood damages sustained at the church.

Therefore, it was voted to again utilize a letter writing format with a "Thanksgiving" theme to raise funds for giving to causes supporting women, children, and youth. Our next regular meeting is planned for October 3 at 1:30 pm with Ruth Circle serving.

This will most likely be a fundraiser work day along with some fun.

Upcoming Camp Clear Lake District Events:

*September 21 - District meeting at Gamer UMC RSVP by 9/13/24

*October 28 - Spiritual Growth Day at Ruthven UMC RSVP by 10/21/24

Both events run 9:00 am to 2:30 pm; Lunch for each meeting is \$10.00.

Contact officers Cyndi O'Hara, Shurmaine McAlpine, or Jane Ingledue if you are wishing to attend either or both events.

MISSIONS

The collection of paper products and personal hygiene products for our HeadStart families were delivered to HeadStart after the flood along with six Flood Buckets. The staff was glad to receive the items and has been able to disburse them to the HeadStart families on an 'as needed' basis. Thank you for your help in making this Mission a successful endeavor. With school just around the corner it is time to begin collecting for our HeadStart/JumpStart families. Our collecting for the month of September will go from August 18th to September 17. This month's menu includes the following; Hamburger Helper any kind Green Beans or Corn 15 oz. Apple Sauce 24 oz Fareway Meat Gift Card (Foundation) The Missions Committee have been reviewing the Missions Projects we were able to participate in last year and determining which projects we would like to pursue again this year. One such project was our involvement in the In-Gathering. Currently our goal is to fill 10 school bags with school items, make the 'Cover Them with Love" quilts, continue to work on the woven sleep mats and take up an offering which will be delivered with the other items at the In-Gathering on November 2. If you have any questions please call Brownie Small @ 262-7420 and I will try to answer them for you. Other Mission Projects will arise as our church and our community continue to recover from the ravages of the June Flood.

Brownie Small, Missions Chair

Dinner Church

September 21st from 5:30-7:30ish

Meat will be provided.

Bring a side, salad, or dessert to share.

We will have water and lemonade available, if you'd like something different, feel free to bring your preferred beverage.

You may also want to bring a lawn chair to sit on.

224 E. 19th Street

Spencer, IA 51301

Thank you Jane and Roger for hosting our September Dinner Church!



Grace United Methodist Church

GRACE KIDZ CARNIVAL

September 18, 2024 | 311 2nd Avenue W, Spencer

Wednesday 5-7 pm

**FREE
ENTRY**

PRIZES

**FREE
FOOD**

**BALLOON
ARTIST**

GAMES



LOOKING AHEAD:

Free Meals on Wednesday nights begin on September 25th at 5:30 PM

Grace Kidz, every Wednesday night, starting September 25th at 6:00 PM

Bell Choir and Chancel Choir begin October 2nd.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Grace United Methodist Church is hosting a blood drive

Thursday, September 5th

11:00 AM-5:00 PM

This will be held at

Clay County Extension and Outreach Meeting Room

1515 W. 18th Street

Spencer, Iowa

They do request that we have volunteers to help with registration at arrival time.

If you'd be willing to volunteer some time to do that, please contact Bri in the church office.

712-262-5970 or bpullen@spencergumc.com



Wednesday night meals are back, starting September 25th! With not knowing what the status will be with electricity, we are looking for volunteers to sign up to lead meals through October. Please sign up for one Wednesday to be leader of that meal, and create your team and your menu. Keep in mind that we do not know when we will have full electricity to utilize the kitchen yet.



- October 2nd
- October 9th
- October 16th
- October 23rd
- October 30th

A promotional graphic for 'Grace Kidz Wednesday Nights'. The background is a light blue color with stylized white flowers and yellow starburst patterns. In the center, there are three overlapping rectangular boxes. The top box is yellow and contains the text 'GRACE KIDZ' in a white, bubbly, outlined font. The middle box is pink and contains the text 'WEDNESDAY NIGHTS' in a yellow, bubbly, outlined font. The bottom box is white and contains the text '6:00 P.M.' in a black, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom right of the graphic is a large white cross with radiating lines around it, symbolizing a church or religious event. Below the central boxes, the text 'Hope you are able to join us each week!' is written in a black, sans-serif font. At the very bottom, the text 'FREE MEAL PROVIDED @ 5:30 EACH WEEK' is written in a black, sans-serif font.

GRACE KIDZ

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

6:00 P.M.

Hope you are able to join us each week!

FREE MEAL PROVIDED @ 5:30 EACH WEEK

UMM would like to invite you to join them on Saturday, September 21st at 8:00 a.m. Pastor Michael will be our speaker with information about OUR United Methodist Connection.



United Methodists: A Connected Church

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.

SEAN.PULATIE.IA@GMAIL.COM

641-481-0320

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.



Rhubarb Dream Dessert

1 c. sifted flour

5 tablespoons powdered sugar

1/2 cup butter or margarine

*Blend above ingredients together and press into an ungreased 7x11 inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes.

*Then mix remaining ingredients:

2 beaten eggs

1 1/2 cups sugar

1/4 cup flour

3/4 teaspoon salt

2 cups finely chopped rhubarb.

*Spoon into crust. Continue baking at 350 degrees for 35 minutes.

*Serve with whipped cream or ice cream.





As we all know, the Clay County Fair is just around the corner. This 9 day event impacts all of Spencer in some way or another! With that said, and much deliberation between staff and SPRC, it has been decided that the Grace United Methodist Church will be closed for normal business hours September 9th through the 13th. We will resume regular business hours on Monday, September 16th. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to any SPRC or staff members.

***There will still be staff in and out of the building working on stuff as they need to, but we will NOT be "OPEN" or here necessarily during business hours. If you need anything, please call and please leave a message so that we can get the right person to call you back in a timely fashion. If it's not urgent, feel free to send an email to any office staff.**

office@spencergumc.com will go to all office staff

thepastor@spencergumc.com (Pastor Michael)

finance@spencergumc.com (Sandy Thomas)

bpullen@spencergumc.com (Bri Pullen)

September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 9:30AM Fellowship 10:45AM	2 Office Closed	3 Missions 5:30PM Worship 6:30PM	4 Coffee @Grace 9:30AM Men's Bible Study 1:00PM Loom Session 2-4PM	5	6 Office Closed	7
8 Worship 9:30AM Fellowship 10:45AM	9 Office Closed	10 Office Closed	11 Office Closed Men's Bible Study 1:00PM Loom Session 2-4PM	12 Office Closed	13 Office Closed	14
15 Worship 9:30AM Fellowship 10:45AM Children's Ministry 6:30PM	16 Trustees 6:30PM	17 SPRC 6:30PM	18 Coffee @Grace 9:30AM Men's Bible Study 1:00PM Loom Session 2-4PM Grace Kidz Carnival 5PM	19 Ruth Circle 1:30PM	20 Office Closed	21 UWF District Mtg 9-2:30PM Dinner Church 5:30PM
22 Worship 9:30AM Fellowship 10:45AM Finance 10:45AM	23	24 WWWL 9-3 Esther Circle 5:00PM	25 Men's Bible Study 1:00PM Loom Session 2-4PM Free Meal 5:30PM Grace Kidz 6:00PM	26	27 Office Closed	28
29 Worship 9:30AM Fellowship 10:45AM	30 Church Council 6:30PM					

Grace United Methodist Church

311 2nd Ave West • Spencer, Iowa 51301
(712) 263-5970 • www.spencergumc.com
office@spencergumc.com

Worship:

Sunday 9:30 AM- Traditional

Pastor Michael ~~Slingsby~~

thepastor@spencergumc.com

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SPENCER, IA 51301
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Return Service Requested

have a happy and safe
LABOR DAY
God bless you

Chair Person of Ministry Boards:

Church Council: Judith Olson

Co-Lay Leaders: Sandy Heerdt, Ben Pullen

Lay Member to Ann. Conference: Leroy Heerdt, Jenn ~~Inglehue~~, Eri 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 Schwerneker

UWF: Cyndi O'Hara and Pastor ~~Sharmaine McAlpine~~

UMM: Brad Johnson

Youth Rep: Riley Herman

Church Council Secretary: Joan Waller

Finance Secretary: Sandy Thomas

Director of Communications: Alison Herman

