

November 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.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

We will be hosting another Kids Day Out ! Mark your calendar for December 14th from 10 AM-1 PM for this fun event! Last year we had 103 children attend. (And a surprise visit from Santa himself) There will be more information coming, as well as opportunities for you to join in on the fun!! There is a need for about 25 volunteers to help. Please talk to anybody on the Education Committee if you have questions or would like to volunteer.



Blood Drive at Grace UMC

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

Then Feed Just One

<https://www.thenfeedjustone.org/home.html>

An upcoming, one day Mission opportunity arranged by Keith Bress will take place on November 9th when Spirit Lake United Methodist Church hosts Then Feed Just One. In this endeavor participants are assigned a task to pack bags with dried ingredients that, when cooked, make a meal. There is a quota of bags that need to be reached on packing day. This is a great opportunity to work along side members of other congregations in fulfilling a goal that will benefit others in countries far removed from here. If you are interested in participating please let Keith know or sign up on the information easel in Fellowship Hall before **November 9th**.

Meet at GUMC at 8:00 AM and carpool/caravan to Spirit Lake

Dinner Church- Recruit and Prepare:

Grace UMC will be hosting its monthly Dinner Church Saturday November 16th at 5:30. This month we will be using the time to thank individuals for their volunteer work. Attendees will also be given the opportunity to complete forms for backgrounds checks. These forms will be used to update our current information and prepare a greater body of volunteers to assist in the Children and Youth

Advent Study

Pastor Michael will be hosting an Advent Bible Study titled

"What to Expect When You're Expecting a Savior."

The study will begin Tuesday December 3rd at 10am, hosted in the Narthex.

Please **RSVP** to receive materials for this study by **Wednesday November 20th**.

Samaritan's Purse has an annual Operation Christmas Child project. Shurmaine McAlpine has the decorated shoe boxes we can use to pack these boxes full of "Fun, Full, and Personalized" items to be shared with children around the world.

Fun– A "WOW" effect item like a doll, stuffed animal, game, or flat soccer ball or football.

Full– Other items added to the box such as school supplies, was cloths, a towel, or socks.

Personalized– An encouraging note and a photo for the child that lets them see who is packing their box.

These boxes will be mailed around the world. It may be the first time that the child receiving the box learns about God's Amazing Love.

Let's be missionaries from home. Please pray for these boxes as they are packed, mailed, and received during this Holiday Season.

These boxes can be delivered to First Congregational Church between November 18th and 25th.

You can pick up a shoebox and label in the church office. If you have any questions, please reach out to Shurmaine McAlpine or you can contact First Congregational Church.



Weighted Works With Love

Returning to Grace UMC on November 19th with the Ambassadors coming at 9:30 a.m. to welcome this group “HOME” after 4 months.

-Brownie Small, WWWL Volunteer

Missions Committee

Thank you to everyone who purchased food items and helped to pack our October JumpStart bags. The staff at HeadStart always remind us of how grateful the families are to receive them. Collecting for the month of November bags will continue until November 20th, the day we pack the bags for delivery.

November’s menu includes the following:

- 32 oz. Pancake mix (made with water)
- 24 oz. Pancake syrup (NOT sugar free)
- 29 oz. Canned fruit

These bags will be packed on November 20th, following Coffee @ Grace.

UMM

Please join us on Saturday, November 16th at 8:00 AM! Our guest will be David Lyons from ATLAS. He will discuss changes that have and continue to take place following the flood. All are welcome!

Pastor's Message:

Pastor Michael Slininger

712-262-5970

thepastor@spencergumc.com

“Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved.” -Helen Keller-

In this season, I reflect on the last few months while also preparing for the ministry activities for November, gratitude has a unique weight to it. I am thankful for so many things. I am overjoyed to be back in ministry. I am blessed that my family is adjusting well. I am astonished at the adaptability of all of you, as we have worshiped together in a building gradually recovering from the flood damage. I am elated at the glory sightings of our worship experiences, program ministry, and partnership seeking. This year has been a whirlwind, and it's not over yet.

“Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”
-1 Thessalonians 5:18-

In your life, what is stirring gratitude? With Thanksgiving around the corner, I trust that many of us will hear this question in many different places. There are things to be thankful for year-round. Still, there is something to be said about pausing to truly mediate on what we are thankful for and why. I am not thankful for the flood, and the damage that it caused. I am thankful that people took it as an opportunity to come together to help others. I am thankful to see the resilience with our congregation. I am thankful to see the our leaders respond incredible well in crisis. I am thankful for task that allowed me the unique chance to get to know people in the church and community I had only recently joined. I am not thankful for the flood, but without it I would have missed out on some pretty amazing experiences.

In this season, focused on gratitude, be attentive to hard things. Give God praise forth challenges that had to be overcome. Praise Jesus, for the suffering that helped gain new perspective. Thank you Holy Spirit, for the constant companionship in trying times. Without the pain, the suffering, and brokenness, we wouldn't know what our God is capable for, in, and through us.

Grace Kids News

As you all have heard, the Children's Director position currently held by me, Kristin Schwenneker, is being eliminated due to budget cuts for 2025. Our Education Team will work together moving forward to ensure enough volunteers to help with the youth program that we currently have going.

Currently we have about 20 kids coming on Wednesday nights and our 5-week lessons have a theme of Recess just like the good old school days. Most of them come and enjoy a meal with their families also. We have learned about praying, belonging, and embracing god's love. We would welcome anyone that would like to help us on Wednesday nights from 6-7 p.m.

We will also be hosting another Kids Day Out in December for community families. Please join us at our next Education meeting on Tuesday, November 5th if you would like to help or be involved.

Please pray for our kids and their families and please come meet them and show them the true Grace love!

Sincerely,

Kristin Schwenneker

GRACE KIDZ

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

6:00 P.M.

Hope you are able to join us each week!

FREE MEAL PROVIDED @ 5:30 EACH WEEK



All societies are being impacted by global migration, which is surging because of oppression, climate change, and conflict. We know that those who choose to move are in search of survival and a better life. Yet, tragically, immigrants in the U.S. are being demonized, causing some to fear for their safety.

Join us this Advent for a three-week videoconference study focused on global migration, immigration, and beloved community. We will engage the Bible and our Social Principles as we think and pray about our call to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We will learn about the Great Migration, the largest internal migration in U.S. history. During the Great Migration, more than six million African Americans moved from the South to northern, midwestern, and western states to escape racial terror and oppression. This study will present that history through poetry by some of our greatest American poets and through the artwork of acclaimed African American artist Jacob Lawrence.

Join Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai and Iowa and Illinois Methodists on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. Central.

Register here at <https://www.iaumc.org/adventstudy>



We want to express our deepest gratitude to the Trustees! (Gary Small, Roger Ingledue, Lenny Heerdt, Nancy Hoffman, Ben O'Clair, Bill Elliott, Rich Prentice, Jim Herman, and Marsha Larson)

Thank you for your tireless efforts and dedication to Grace UMC and its recovery following the devastating flood of June 22, 2024. The work you have done here has not gone unnoticed.

18+ weeks it has been since the flood. We are FINALLY functioning with power, lights, and heat in the west wing of the main level. We are gaining ground in so many ways. It took some time to see it, but we are actively seeing the progress nearly every day.

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts. We are so truly appreciative of what you've been able to make happen. It is impossible to express the level of gratitude we have for this group!



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



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Spencer Grace UM Church

November 2024

Wednesdays:

1:00 PM Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM Grace Kidz
 1:00-4:00 PM Loom Work 6:30 PM Chancel Choir
 5:30 PM-Free Meal-Public Welcome 7:30 PM Bell Choir

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office Closed	2
3 Turn Clocks Back Worship 9:30 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM	4 Missions 5:30 PM SPRC 6:30 PM	5 Children's Ministry 6:30 PM	6 Coffee @ Grace 9:30 AM Worship 4:00 PM	7	8 Office Closed	9 Then Feed Just One
10 Worship 9:30 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM Adult Ed 10:45 AM	11 Finance 5:30 PM Trustees 6:30 PM	12 Children's Ministry 6:30 PM	13 Men's Bible Study 1:00 PM	14	15 Office Closed	16 UMM 8:00 AM -David Lyons (ATLAS) Dinner Church
17 Worship 9:30 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM Adult Education 10:45 AM	18 Church Council 6:30 PM	19 WWWL 9-3 Children's Ministry 6:30 PM Esther Circle 5:00 PM	20 Coffee @ Grace 9:30 AM Men's Bible Study 1:00 PM	21 Pastor Gone Ruth Circle 1:30 PM	22 Pastor Gone Office Closed	23 Pastor Gone
24 Pastor Gone Worship 9:30 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM Adult Education 10:45 AM	25 Pastor Gone	26 Pastor Gone	27 Pastor Gone NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMMING	28 Pastor Gone Office Closed	29 Pastor Gone Office Closed	30 Pastor Gone



Grace United Methodist Church

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NON-PROFIT

ORGANIZATION

U.S.POSTAGE

SPENCER, IA 51301

PERMIT NO. 145

Return Service Requested

Worship:

Sunday 9:30 AM– Traditional

Pastor Michael Slininger

thepastor@spencergumc.com



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

