

December 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



KIDS DAY WITHOUT PARENTS

COME AND ENJOY BRUNCH WITH SANTA STARTING AT 10 AM

HEY PARENTS ENJOY A FREE COFFEE BAR WHILE YOUR KIDS MEET AND GREET WITH SANTA THEN LEAVE FOR SOME WELL DESERVED "ME TIME" FOR YOU!

Kids ages 4 up to 5th Grade

Main Event :

- Inflatables
- Crafts & Games
- Santa & Elves
- Movie & food



**DEC 14
2024**

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Grace United Methodist Church
311 2nd Ave W
Spencer, IA 51301

❄️ FREEWILL OFFERING ❄️

REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE AT
SPENCERGUMC.COM

A sack lunch will be provided to all children.

Spencer Sparks
4-H Club 

HEN HOUSE



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 10 AM, hosted in the Narthex.

United Methodist Men

Please join us on Saturday, December 14th at 8:00 AM! Our program will be lead by Pastor Michael Slininger. Come see what he has in store for us.

All are welcome!

Missions Committee

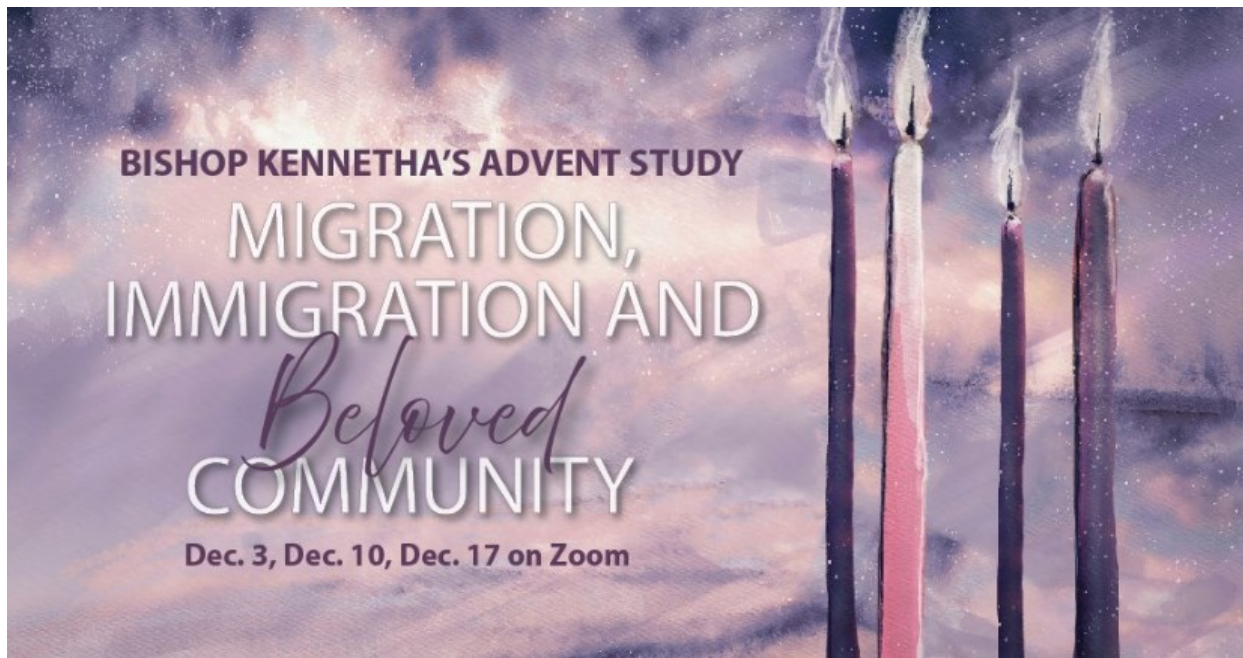
Thank you to everyone who purchased food items and helped to pack our November JumpStart bags. The staff at HeadStart always remind us of how grateful the families are to receive them. Collecting for the month of December bags will continue until **December 18th**, the day we pack the bags for delivery.

December's menu includes the following:

- Corn or Green Beans
- Stove Top Stuffing

These bags will be packed on **December 18th**, following Coffee @ Grace.





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 PM Central Time.

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

Pastor's Message:

Pastor Michael Slininger

712-262-5970

thepastor@spencergumc.com

“Christmas is not only getting too commercial, it’s getting too dangerous.”

-Linus-

As Linus spoke these words in the great Christmas classic “A Charlie Brown Christmas,” he was referring to a threat he had just experienced from his sister Lucy. As I hear those words today, I believe there is truth to them in a different

● sentiment.

● Rachel and I have shared a Christmas tradition of decorating our home for
● Christmas while listening to Christmas music. As we finish the decorating, I would make peppermint hot cocoa, and we would watch “A Charlie Brown Christmas”. Needless to say, I hold this short film in high regard due to the tremendous nostalgic feeling it breathes into my soul. The season of Christmas, more accurately titled Advent, brings me great joy. I have listened to so much Christmas music that our 8 year-old son, Owen, chooses to listen to it as he falls asleep many nights throughout the year, whether it is December or July.

I find great joy in Christmas because I find it awe-inspiring that God would choose to enter our experience and be present among us in the flesh. I am amazed at the story of so many people waiting and wondering what God was going to do with the prophecy of a Messiah; even more so, how and why God choose to fulfill it. This baby boy came into the world to flip perspective, priorities, and principalities upside down.

“He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted-up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty-handed. He has come to the aid of Israel, remembering his mercy.”

-Luke 1:52-54

As I hear Linus’ words, stated above, it strikes me a little different this year. Is the Church living into the true Christmas message? Advent is a season to remember not only the Christmas story, but the reason God came as “Immanuel” in the first place. Several characters speak to the purpose of this miraculous child before he can ever speak a word for himself. Mary, Elizabeth, Simeon, Anna, and others speak about how this baby will grow into a man who upsets the power structures of the current culture and bring in a new kingdom.

Not only is Christmas becoming too commercial, but it could become detrimental, even dangerous for the church. The Church must stop using Christmas to support itself, focusing on its own joys above those of others. The Savior came to alter our corporate and personal understanding of why we are here. “Immanuel”, God with us, is not just then but now. God was, is, and will always be present with us. And if Mary, Elizabeth, Simeon, Anna, and others are accurate, God’s presence brings great hope to the poor, downtrodden, broken, and hurting before it brings hope to anyone else.

May Grace UMC be a people that shares this Christmas message during the Advent season and in all seasons. Whatever structure here on earth is bringing you down, God is present with you working to dismantle that structure and bring in the reign of Jesus Christ. We were formed to live as Jesus has called us to serve rather than be served, to love when love is unfitting, and give without expectation of return. Merry Christmas! May you be blessed by the living and loving presence of God through Jesus Christ in tandem with the Holy Spirit.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

December 21, 2024

*Bring your favorite Christmas decorating goodies. Feel free to bring some to share as well. This month during Dinner Church, on December 21st, 2024, we will be decorating cookies together. We will provide the meal, the message, cookies, music, and space. Come prepared to have some fun and decorate cookies with your GUMC friends and family.



VIA de CRISTO at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp, 1203 Inwan St, Milford, IA 51351

Men's dates: January 9th at 7:00 PM-January 12th at 4 PM

Women's dates: January 16th at 7:00 PM-January 19th at 4:00 PM

If you have any questions or are interested, please contact

Shurmaine McAlpine at 712-592-1636 or Pastor Shazzy at 712-262-4392



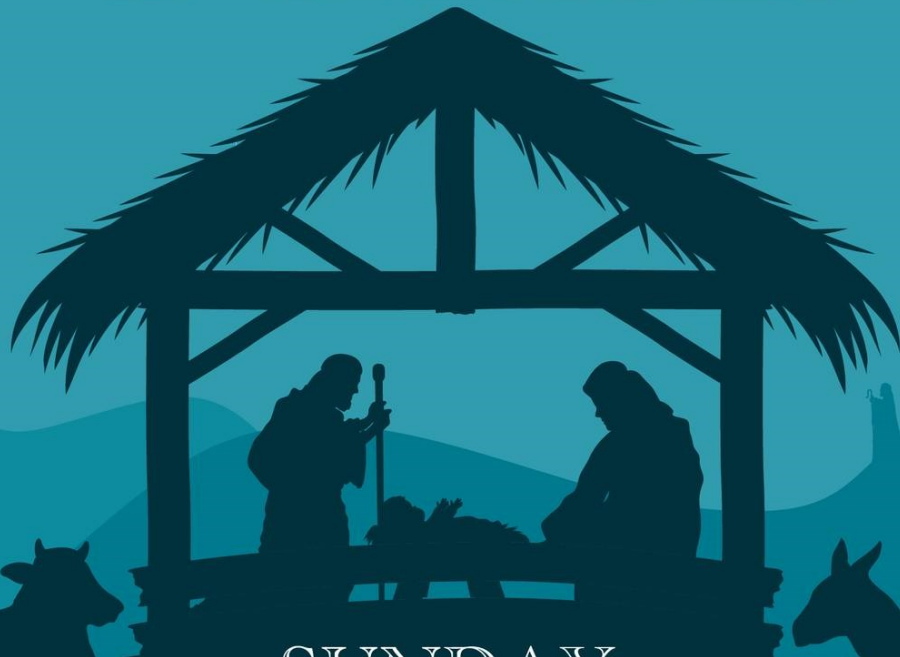
Blood Drive at Grace UMC

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

THE SPENCER MESSIAH BOARD PRESENTS



FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS



SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 8

3 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church • **Rehearsal dates: Nov. 10, 17, 24 at 6:30 p.m.**

THANKS TO THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF
St. Luke Homes and Services, and Daybreakers Kiwanis

Please see "Spencer Messiah" on Facebook for more information

GRACE KIDZ

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

6:00 P.M.

Hope you are able to join us each week!

FREE MEAL PROVIDED @ 5:30 EACH WEEK

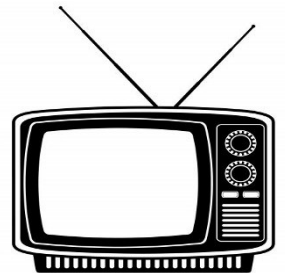


FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM



spencergraceumchurch
Spencer Grace UM Church

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





At our October 3rd meeting, officers for 2025 were nominated and accepted. Those agreeing to a second term are Co-Presidents Shurmaine McAlpine and Cyndi O’Hara; Treasurer, Jane Ingledue; Program Resources, Dorothy DeGroot; Spiritual Growth, Bernie Beecher; Social Action, Bonnie Foust; Education & Interpretation, Cyndi O’Hara; Membership, Nurture & Outreach, Peggy Palm; Nominations, Bonnie Foust and Sheryl Larson; Communications, Sandy Heerdt; Courtesy, Shurmaine McAlpine. New officers added were Lisa Elliott as Secretary and Linda Dobbins on Courtesy. A big “thank you” to these faithful women.

During this meeting we also assembled our fundraising letters for 2024 which included an update from Christi Gabhart with Many Hands 4 Haiti. Funds raised will be distributed to that ministry along with other local missions that benefit women, children and youth in accordance with the United Women in Faith’s purpose. In 2024 we gave \$1,666.00 to four different ministries in addition to our \$1,500.00 district pledge and other offerings.

Ten of our members enjoyed attending the Spiritual Growth Event for Camp Clear Lake District on October 28th at Ruthven United Methodist Church. Their church has been such a great support for Spencer Grace, and we were happy to help them out by supplying the rolls and pumpkin bread for morning coffee. Besides the special time together as a group, we broke up into six sessions to share from the Mission u curriculum of “Welcome Home”. It was a great study which the officers have decided to use as our programs for our 2025 year. We will again meet on the first Thursdays of the months of February, April, June, August, October and December at 1:30 pm.

Remember, United Women in Faith is open to all women of our community and surrounding area.

Our Christmas meeting will be held on December 5th at 1:30 PM with all members sharing Christmas treats and Shurmaine McAlpine having the program based on her harmonica ministry. All women are invited to attend and enjoy fellowship together during Advent .

GRACE CARES

Grace Cares continues to reach out to those in care centers, dealing with medical issues or loss, or are housebound. Some are just unable to always be with us in person but continue to be in our prayers and hearts through cards, phone calls and visits. We will also be distributing Christmas bags of cheer to those who live close by, which is always fun and rewarding. These will be assembled during our next meeting on **Wednesday, December 4th at 3:30 PM.**

We have renewed our connection with our college students. We've done this through notes of encouragement and tokens of our care for these special persons away from our church. On October 6th several of the care team provided a Sunday worship service for the residents at SPARC (formerly Longhouse/ Northshire). Special thanks to Pastor Michael and Shurmaine McAlpine, who accompanied on the piano. This is always much appreciated by the residents and inspiring to us.

We are now scheduled for four visits during 2025.

If you know of someone who might benefit from inclusion in our congregational care ministry, please contact Cyndi O'Hara (712-363-3185) or the church office.

**Welcome to Spencer Archery! They are enjoying the use of the dirt room in the basement. We are excited to be partnering with the Spencer Archery program!
(And get some use of that dirt room!)**



December 2024

Wednesday Nights:

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 Worship 9:30 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM Adult Education 10:45 AM	2 Missions 5:30 PM SPRC 6:30 PM Service of Remembrance 6:30 PM	3 Advent Study 10:00 AM Children's Ministry 6:30 PM	4 Coffee @ Grace 9:30 AM Worship 4:00 PM Grace Cares 3:30 PM	5 UW Faith 1:30 PM	6 Office Closed	7
8 Worship 9:30 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM Adult Education 10:45 AM Festival of Lessons & Carols 3:00 PM-Sacred Heart	9	10 Advent Study 10:00 AM Children's Ministry 6:30 PM	11	12	13 Office Closed	14 UMM 8:00 AM Kids' Day Out 10-1
15 Worship 9:30 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM Adult Education 10:45 AM	16	17 Advent Study 10:00 AM	18 Coffee @ Grace 9:30 AM Pack JumpStart bags	19 Ruth Circle 1:30 PM	20 Office Closed	21 Dinner Church 5:30 PM
22 Worship 9:30 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM Adult Education 10:45 AM	23	24 Traditional Service 4:00 PM Contemporary Service 7:00 PM	25 Merry Christmas Office Closed No Evening Programming	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
29 Worship 9:30 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM Adult Education 10:45 AM	30	31				



Grace United Methodist Church

311 2nd Ave West • Spencer, Iowa
51301

(712) 262-5970 •

www.spencergumc.com

office@spencergumc.com

NON-PROFIT

ORGANIZATION

U.S.POSTAGE

SPENCER, IA 51301

PERMIT NO. 145

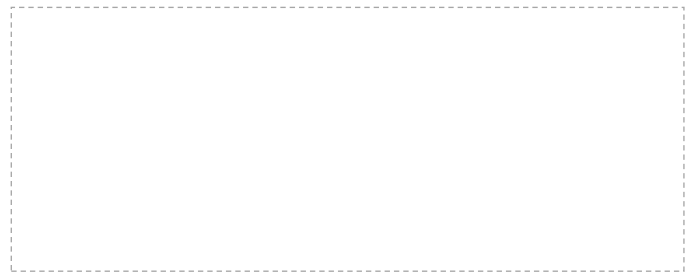
Return Service Requested

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

