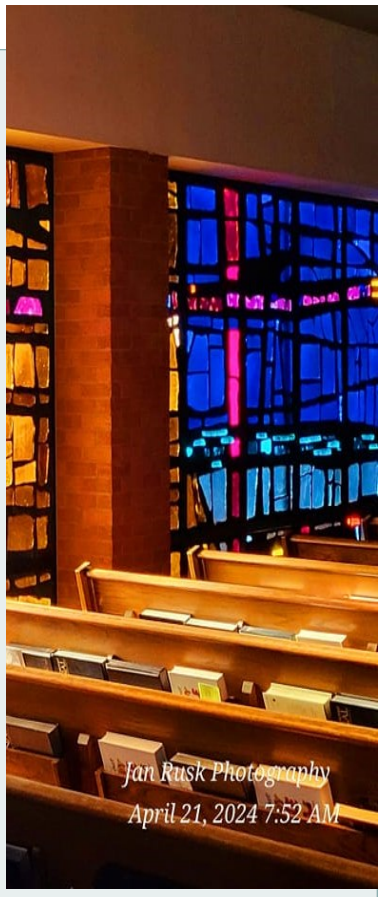
# Grace United Methodist Church Newsletter

June 2025




## JUNE2025
### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| JUNE 1 | COMMUNION & HEALING SERVICE |
| JUNE 8 | GRACE CONGREGATIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY 2025 |
| JUNE 13-15 | ANNUAL CONFERENCE |
| JUNE 14 | FLAGFEST PARADE & LUNCH |
| JUNE 15 | WORSHIP SERVICE LED BY UWF |
| JUNE 20-21 | GRACE RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE |
| JUNE 21 | FASTER HORSES BENEFIT CONCERT |
| JUNE 22 | COMMUNINITY CHURCH SERVICE - EAST LEACH PARK |
| JUNE 29 | HYMN SING AT 9:00 AM |

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### MISSION STATEMENT

Everyone is invited to know and feel God's love, experience spiritual growth, encounter for-giveness, receive respect

To contact Pastor Michael

Email:

ThePastor @spencergumc.

Call:

712-262-5970

## THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR MICHAEL

"Hurt people, hurt people. Only healing ends the cycle." -Unknown-

This past week (or potentially earlier) I was blessed by a visit from the streptococcus bacterial infection. My early symptoms led me to the assume I was dealing with something of the viral category. This led me into an action plan of self-care, rest, and heavy fluids. I didn't venture to the doctor, confident there was nothing they could do if I was dealing with a virus. As the days passed, and symptoms grew stronger, I swallowed my pride (very painfully) and made my way to the doctor. After receiving some medicinal assistance, in due time, my symptoms began to subside. I am still dealing with a few minor issues with pain, energy level, and having the full range of voice. Still, these symptoms most likely would have dissipated by now, had I gone to the doctor sooner.

What would it have hurt to go to the doctor? I have white coat syndrome. With my ample experience with doctors and hospitals I have a passive fear that anytime I go they will have an unmeasurable amount of bad news for me. Most of the time this has not been the case. But when you have had two transplants (both over 20 years old) with minimal rejection, part of me always kind of wonders, "is it finally time." Please note all my vitals and medical indicators reveal that my body is functioning very well. Still, it is hard to jar this feeling that the ball is about to drop at any point.

There have been seasons in my walk with God that have been similar. I have avoided intimate times with God knowing the Holy Spirit is going to point out something that is remiss our broken with me. Sometimes I fearfully go to pray expecting Jesus voice to say it's time for a complete discipleship health change or an extensive spiritual removal of something within my life. This gut-wrenching feeling leaves me focused on moral actions to approve my behavior rather than simply seeking the relationship and presence of Jesus in my life. The longer I go without that intimate conversation the worse I feel the worse my actions and priorities get. Just like this strep infection. It would have saved me time and pain if I had ignored my fear of going to the doctor and allowed them to care for me as they are capable.

"I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ our Lord…" -Romans 8:38a-

No matter how many times you, or I, or the Church needs reminding, the Spirit will continue to come and whisper in our ear "nothing can separate you." God creates, sustains, and redeems completely out of love. God desires to connect with you regardless of your perception of your worth. There is nothing that can separate you from God's love in the work of Jesus Christ. And there is nothing that can separate you from being capable of serving and loving as Jesus has served and loved you. So don't wait until things get worse. Go Now! God is willing and ready to share love with you.

Summer we are collecting

- Paper Products: paper towels, toilet tissue and Kleenex
- Cleaning products: dish soap, laundry soap, multi surface cleaners
- Personal Hygiene Items: toothpaste, shampoo, bath soap

## MISSION PROJECTS

Missions has had a busy school year with our commitment to JumpStart once a month being a large part of that. Congratulations Grace UMC members. You have provided a bag of groceries every month from September through May for 110 Head Start families. That's 990 bags of groceries.

Also our congregation met a $1000.00 Foundation Fund challenge with our "Noisy Offering" used to purchase books for all 2nd graders in the public school as well as Sacred Heart School and First English School 2nd graders. Our goal was to offer each child two books, one a non-fiction book and one a chapter book. Thanks to the help of Lisa Elliott we were able to purchase a third book for every child entitled *Be You* by Peter H Reynolds who encourages every reader to be the best version of themself. The children were so excited to receive three books. Good job Congregation!

Now that school is out for summer break we are asking the congregation to purchase paper products (paper towels, toilet tissue and Kleenex) and cleaning products (dish soap, laundry soap, multi surface cleaners) and personal hygiene items (toothpaste, shampoo, bath soap) for our JumpStart families. You may drop them off in the grocery cart near the church office any time.

Plan to participate in the All Church Garage Sale Friday June 20 from 11:00 AM - to 5:00 PM. And Saturday June 21 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. A lunch will be available for 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Friday and there will be a bake sale as well. Most items will be Free Will Offering. All moneys will go toward promoting the mission of Grace UMC.

Brownie Small Missions Chair

## Trustees

It has been 11 months since the historic flood. To date the heating system, the electrical system, the air conditioning system, the communication system, the controls for the outside irrigation system, a new sand point pump, four new water heaters, the control system for the sound system in the bell tower, repair to the organ, and an entire upgrade to the elevator are all up and running. The flooding in the parsonage required two new furnaces, a water heater, and carpet in the basement which are all done as well. To date all repairs have been paid for. Thank you congregation for your patience during this very long season of repair and replace. Items left to be done include cleaning and painting the walls in the lower level, hanging new doors, some sheetrock work and removal of the salvage items that will be taken to Shine Brothers Salvage.

During the month of May a mission group spent time in the lower level of our church rebuilding the men's and women's showers on the lower level.

Current pressing issues include the two ash trees on 2nd Ave. which are in need of removal. Because these trees are located on our property they become our responsibility to remove.

Gary Small, Trustees Chair Trustees

## SPRC—New Staff Position

The SPRC developed a job description for a new part-time position titled Event Coordinator and Community Liaison. The funds for this position were approved by the Finance Committee, and will be taken from the remaining Covid PPP funds for the first eighteen months.

At the March 24, 2025, Church Council meeting, this position was presented for discussion and approval, and it was accepted unanimously. Advertising the position followed by individual interviews will begin soon.

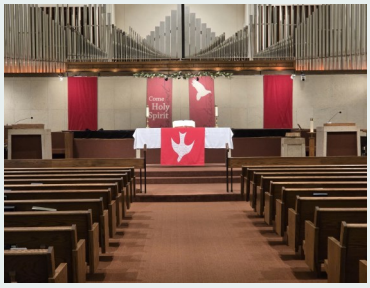
## LAY LEADER MESSAGE: SANDY HEERDT

Lenny and I recently attended an event in which a friend shared his faith testimony. He was soft-spoken and genuine. He told us of his innocent dive into addiction (He took pain pills for an injury that led to full-fledged dependence. This resulted in escalating bad behavior that oftentimes accompanies drug addiction). Through many poor choices and feeling completely lost, he found faith and recovery. He is now one college class away from getting a degree in Addiction Counseling. What a story and encouragement to anyone feeling lost. This got me thinking about testimonials and the importance they have in all of our faith lives.

Do you have a simple and straight-forward testimony about what brought you to faith or how God has made a difference in your life? Do you realize how even the simplest story could change the trajectory of someone else's entire life? If you don't have at least one story that you could share at a moment's notice, consider working on this. I am. When opportunities arise, I want to have a few of my faith experiences ready to share in the hopes of building another's faith.

*But in your hearts, set apart Christ as Lord. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for the reason for your hope, but do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15*

## Banners and colors in our Sanctuary



Do you wonder why the banners are changed at various times of the year? Just as the school year has a cycle, the calendar has a cycle, nature has a cycle, the Church experiences cycles. The banners displayed in our sanctuary represent those cycles. In some ways, the seasons of the Church year represent the various ways God reaches out to us. Or another way to look at this is the seasons represent the various ways we experience God's presence in our lives.

Starting on June 8th, the main color emphasized is a bright red for Pentecost. On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.

The word Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus. Pentecost for Christians culminates the celebration and work of the church begun on Easter Day. In much of early Christianity, Easter Day (not Pentecost) became the primary day for baptisms. After their baptism, the newly baptized were then trained in basic Christian doctrine, including the meaning of the sacraments they had now experienced, as they prepared to take up their ministries in the life of the church.

Two colors are historically associated with Pentecost. Red is a visual reminder of the "tongues of fire" that empowered the apostles and others to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands (Acts 2:3). White was used in some places, including England.

As you worship in our sanctuary, ponder the times and ways the Holy Spirit has touched you. Be renewed in being a part of the life of the Church.



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## FINANCE

**Finance Committee Update**

- Several pledged contributions have already been fulfilled—thank you!
- The church is currently facing a budget deficit of $34,118.
- Costs for electricity, natural gas, and insurance have all increased in 2025.
- A church fundraiser is planned for **June 20–21**—your support is appreciated!
- Building rental income has totaled $700 so far this year.
- A financial update letter to the congregation is being prepared and will be sent in July.

Paul Kassel , Finance Chair

## GRACE CARES

Your Grace Cares Team continues to connect with those of our congregation and friends who are unable to currently attend our worship services, totaling close to 50 persons. On Sunday afternoon, June 1st, we led the worship services at both the north and south buildings of SPARC along with Pastor Michael, Rachel, and the boys. Of course, the residents always enjoy seeing kids! We are scheduled to provide services again on August 17th at 4:30, and anyone is invited to join us in this outreach to our community. The next meeting of the Grace Cares Team is scheduled for Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at 3:30 pm. If you are interested to learn more about what this group does, please contact Cyndi O'Hara at 712-363-3185.

## UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

Our next meeting of United Women in Faith is planned for Thursday, June 5th, at 1:30 pm, most likely in the Narthex. The program will be led by Jane Ingledue and Sheryl Larson from the Welcome Home curriculum with Esther Circle serving refreshments. Those who attended will share about the Soul Care retreat at the Lake Okoboji Methodist Camp.

Plans will be solidified for the June 15th Sunday Worship Service which will be presented by our United Women in Faith group, sharing information about our history, focus, and actions in lifting up women, children and youth on a local and global level. There will also be discussion on an annual fundraiser so bring your ideas.

We will be putting together hygiene care bags for CAASA and other agencies using  our Be Bold grant funds.

Also, the new books for the UWFaith reading program have arrived and will be shared before placing them in the church library UWFaith section.

We look forward to a great turnout and sharing an enjoyable and fruitful afternoon together.

| Meeting Dates | Esther Circle |
|---|---|
| Thursday at 1:30 pm<br>June 5<br>August 7<br>October 2<br>December 4 | on the 4th Tuesday at 5:00<br>May, July, September,<br><br>Ruth Circle |

https://uwfaith.org/

**2025 Officers**

Cyndi O'Hara
(712)363-3185

Lisa Elliott
(712)240-0929

Shurmaine McAlpine
(712)592-1636

Jane Ingledue
(605)413-7034

## WEIGHTED WORKS WITH LOVE

Ecumenical Group that meets theFourth Wednesday of the month 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Their purpose is to provide quality custom made weighted blankets, lap pads and shoulder wraps for individuals who could benefit from deep pressure therapy.

They welcome you to visit them while we are making these custom -made weighted blankets, lap pads, and shoulder wraps.  These are specially made for individuals who may benefit from deep pressure therapy.

# GRACE UNIVERSITY

*"Listening to Learn, Learning to Love, Loving to Serve"*

## Highly Effective Discipleship

Grace University thrives on Christians seeking to center their lives around Jesus. Those who participate with Grace University have an understanding that discipleship goes beyond Sunday morning worship and transforms daily rhythms and routines. Engaged Christians take on the attitude of a student taking seriously the call to be an avid learner throughout their lives, regardless of age. As students of Jesus, we continuously participate in communal learning. Grace University is not intended for the nominal Christian but for those who are willing to be radically different. All are welcome to enroll.

## Communal Learning Model

Grace University uses resources in neuroscience, psychology, sociology, scripture, Christian tradition, and history to engage your brain, body, and soul to their highest potential. Grace University believes small group communal learning is the catalyst of life change. This communal learning includes lecture classes, study groups, meal fellowship, worship activities, grace-filled accountability sharing, and service projects. There is great intention in combining worship, learning, and service to unite people in care for one another while engaging with the surrounding community. The Grace University leadership team wants to work with any schedule as long as the participants provide enough time each week dedicated to the communal learning process. Intentional commitment is the key.

## Enroll Today

Enrollment is not limited to members of Grace UMC. Whether you are new to faith, have been long-gone and returning, or have been engaged with your faith for decades; Grace University will deeply impact your peace, hope, joy, and love along with your faith depth and engagement. Enroll today by discussing with Pastor Michael about your interest. Small groups, worship opportunities, outreach ministries, and the like are being planned and coordinated now. Learning begins September of 2025. You won't want to miss this spiritual engaging, faith assuring, Identity transforming, community renewing opportunity. Come grow with us!

**Coffee @ Grace**

**1st & 3rd Wednesdays | 9:30–11:00 AM**
Fellowship Hall

Come enjoy good coffee, delicious food, and warm fellowship! It's a great place to catch up with old friends—or make new ones.

Everyone is welcome—we'd love to see you there!

**Fitness Classes at GUMC: Essentrics & Chair Yoga**

We're excited to offer **two fitness classes** at GUMC, both led by Bernie Beecher!

**Mondays & Wednesdays**
**9:30–10:00 AM – Essentrics**
**10:00–10:30 AM – Chair Yoga**
**Held at the church, upstairs in the BenTena Room**

**Essentrics** is a strength training method that uses slow, controlled muscle-lengthening movements (eccentric contractions) to help build strength, improve balance and flexibility, and reduce injury risk.

**Chair Yoga** offers gentle stretching and movement using a chair for support—ideal for all fitness levels, especially those looking for a low-impact option.

No matter your experience, these 30-minute sessions are a great way to care for your body in a supportive environment.

**Grace's Food Stand Returns After the Parade!**

**Saturday, June 24**
**Parade begins at 11:00 AM**

We're excited to announce that Grace will once again host a food stand following the parade!

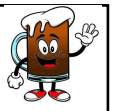
This fun and festive event is a great way to connect with the community—and we need your help to make it a success.

Volunteer and donation sign-up sheets are available in the narthex.

# UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

**2025 Main Street Market**

**RootBeer Foats with Grace**



**Tursdays 5—8 PM**
**July 17,24,31**
**August2,14**

Do you know, we use roughly 4 gallons of ice cream and 12 bottles of root beer every week.

We will be looking for our people to help pass out root beer floats and provide donations of ice cream and root beer. Sign ups in the narthex starting June 15th. If see a great deal and shop early please place items in the fellowship hall kitchen. Thank You!

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Faster HorsesFlood Relief Festival**

**Friday, June 21**
**Clay County Fairgrounds**

Join for an unforgettable evening of music and community as we come together to support our neighbors in need.

**Our Goal: Raise $2 Million to Build 10 Homes**
for families affected by the **Clay County flood**.

Your presence and generosity can make a life-changing difference.

## Side x Side Fundraiser for Tim Small at 5:13

**Saturday, June 21, 2025 , 12:00 PM**

There is a Side x Side Fundraiser for Tim who is battling cancer! All vehicles are welcome! 5:13 will host a meal after the ride, free will donation.

## Organ Concert Celebrating 150 Years of Spirit Lake UMC

Featuring Kent Tritle with Cellist Arthur Fiacco
Special Guests: The Spirit Lake Praise Team
Led by Dove-nominated musicians Dan and Karla Trtle

Join them for a special organ concert in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Spirit Lake United Methodist Church! This inspiring musical event will feature organist Kent Tritle , renowned cellist Arthur Fiacco, and a special appearance by the Spirit Lake Praise Team, led by Dan and Karla Tritle

**June 15th, 2025**
**3:00 PM**
**Spirit Lake UMC**
Experience an afternoon of powerful worship and extraordinary music as we honor the past and look to the future. All are welcome!

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

## PRAYERS

Please keep the following individuals and families in your prayers:

**Rich Prentice** – Rich recently fell and broke his pelvis. He is recovering well at SPRC (formerly Longhouse).

**Karen Severson** – Karen is recovering at home following knee replacement surgery.

**Blaine and Marge Pederson** – Prayers for comfort and peace following the loss of a family member.

**Galen Chitty** – Father of Kristin Schwenneker, Galen experienced a heart issue and is now recovering at home.

**Zach O'Clair** and **Nick Ensley** – Please lift up Zach, Nick, and their families as they prepare for deployment. Pray for their protection, courage, and the support of their loved ones during this time.

**Tim Small** – Continued prayers for Tim as he undergoes cancer treatments.

**Dawn Rasmussen** and Family – Please remember Dawn and her family in your prayers following the tragic passing of her sister, Denise Henely, in an automobile accident on Saturday, May 24, 2025.

Please keep **Bill Prentice** in your prayers. He is currently at **Avera Medical Hospital in Sioux Falls**, receiving **dialysis and chemotherapy treatments**.

We pray for strength, healing, and comfort for Bill and his loved ones during this challenging time.

Cards and notes of encouragement can be sent to:
**Bill Prentice**
c/o H. Prentice
PO Box 215
Cherokee, IA 51012

GoFundMe page has been established to help with expenses

Billy's FIGHT is our fight

Custom shirts, vinyl decal sticker for your carare being sold! Long sleeve & short sleeve. You can pick from two different designs. The funds raised will go directly to Billy — to help cover the growing bills and daily expenses that come with being out of work during treatment.

Click here

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

Oliver Andres DeGroot ...that is Greek for manly warrior....was born on May 29th and weighed 7# 8oz 21" born at 7:59 a.m. Lots of dark hair. His big brother, Archer, is very proud

**Here's a fresh batch of dad jokes in honor of Father's Day — perfect for a chuckle (or a groan):**

Why did the scarecrow win an award? Because he was outstanding in his field.

What did the ocean say to the beach? Nothing, it just waved.

I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes. She gave me a hug.

Did you hear the rumor about butter? Well, I'm not going to spread it.

Why did the golfer bring two pairs of pants? In case he got a hole in one.

I wondered why the baseball was getting closer and closer. Then it hit me.

Did you hear about the guy who was addicted to the hokey pokey? He turned himself around.

I used to play piano by ear. Now I use my hands.

What do you call a factory that makes okay products? A satisfactory.

Where do fingers grow? On palm trees

What did one eye say to the other? Between us, something smells.

What's the difference between a piano and a fish? You can tune a piano but you can't tuna fish.

Two guys walk into a bar. ...The third one ducked.

I told my dad I'd call him later, but he said he prefers "Dad."

## Sunday Worship

9:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)

10:45 AM Fellowship (Narthex)

## Committee Meetings

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Children's & Youth Ministry | June 10 | 6:30 PM | Library |
| Church Council | June 23 | 6:30 PM | Fireside |
| Finance | June 9 | 5:30 PM | Wesley |
| Grace Cares | June 25 | 3:00 PM | |
| Missions | June 2 | 3:30 PM | Library |
| SPRC | June 2 | 6:00 PM | |
| Trustees | June 9 | 6:30 PM | Library |
| Worship | June 7 | 4:00 PM | Library |

## Small Groups

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chair Yoga | Monday & Wednesday | 10:00AM | BenTena |
| Coffee @ Grace | June 4 & June 18, 9:30AM | 9:30AM | Narthex |
| Essentrics Class | Monday & Wednesday | 9:30AM | BenTena |
| Ester Circle | June 24 | 5:00PM | |
| Grace Band Practice | | | Sanctuary |
| Loom Work Session | Wednesday | 2:00-4:00 PM | Fellowship Hall |
| Men's Bible Study | Wednesday | 1:00 PM | Narthex |
| Ruth Circle | June 19 | 1:30 PM | |
| UMM | no meeting this month | | |
| UWFaith | | | |
| Weighted Works with Love | June 24 | 9:00 AM | Fellowship Hall |

Click here for the complete Calendar

## CHAIR PERSON OF MINISTRY BOARDS:

Church Council: Judith Olson
Co-Lay Leaders: Sandy Heerdt, Ben Pullen
Lay Member to Ann. Conference: 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: Lisa Elliott
UWF: Cyndi O'Hara and Pastor Shurmaine McAlpine
UMM: Bill Elliott
Youth Rep:
Church Council Secretary: Joan Waller
Finance Secretary: Sandy Thomas
Director of Communications: Alison Herman

GRACE
United Methodist Church

JOIN US FOR...
**Inperson/Live Stream Worship**
Sundays @ 9:30 AM- Sanctuary

CONTACT US
Grace United Methodist Church
311 2nd Ave W
Spencer, IA 51301
Phone: 712-262-5970
office@spencergumc.com

OFFICE HOURS
**Monday - Thursday**
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
**Friday - Sunday**
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