Grace United Methodist Church Newsletter

September 2025

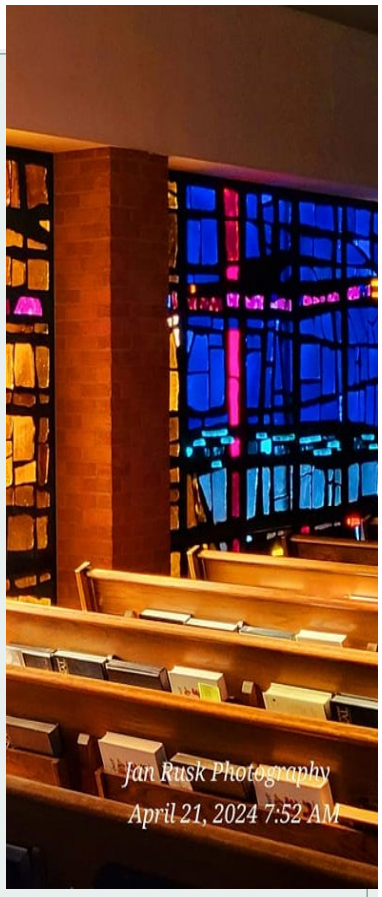
SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES
LED BY PASTOR MICHAEL

Hospitality Development Team- This group will be using the book *Shift: Helping Congregations Back Into the Game of Effective Ministry* to discuss our hospitality culture. We will look at how we can use our building, our people, and our talents to be an intentionally welcoming place in our community. This group will meet Sunday evenings from 7-8pm starting October 12th-November 16th.

Developing Discipleship Practices- This group will be using exerts from several books to discuss ways to interject scripture and spiritual practices in our daily lives. If you are seeking ways for your belief to be reflected in your life this will be a great group for you. This group will meet Tuesday mornings from 10-11:30am starting October 7th-November 18th.

John the Baptist- During Advent our worship and sermons will revolve around the character of John the Baptist. As we welcome the Christ child, we will discuss how this cousin of Jesus held great significance to his development and ministry. This group will have two meeting times: Monday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm starting on December 1st-December 22nd and Tuesday mornings from 10-11am starting December 2nd-December 23rd.

See Page 9 for additional Small Group Opportunities



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MISSION STATEMENT

Everyone is invited to know and feel God's love, experience spiritual growth, encounter forgiveness, receive respect and gain hope

To contact Pastor Michael

Email:

ThePastor @spencergumc.

Call:

712-262-5970

Pastor Michael's BLOG:

The Bare Church

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR MICHAEL

I have enjoyed some moments of nostalgia this past week as Owen (our oldest son) begins the school year. He will be attending the Lincoln building in the Spencer school district as a 4th grader. In cliché manner, I am celebrating how much he has grown. I can remember when I dropped him off at the toddler room for the first time 5 years-ago. Thinking about this made me dig deep into my memory banks to relive some of my first days of the school year. I'm not going to lie it was very difficult. I do remember a great sense of anticipation and wonder of what the new school year would bring.

In churches, it is typical that the new school year brings a new program year. At Grace it is no different. We don't necessarily start at the beginning of the school year, as we wait for the fair festivities to end. Still, I invite all of our participants and members to be prepared for the coming program year at Grace UMC. The carnival will kick off our children's programming Wednesday September 24th. October will bring some small group and Bible Study opportunities. Advent and Christmas will be here before you know it.

Two of the most impactful ways you can participate in Grace UMC is to join a small group and/or a committee. Our committees are always looking for fresh eyes and voices to share in our ministries. Our church body functions through the work and decision making of our committees. I am thankful for the leaders who currently serve and look forward to seeing the work God does through them as we welcome more to serve. Small groups are a great way to build relationships and grow in your discipleship. As followers of Christ we should always be looking for ways to reflect Jesus' mission, teachings, service, and sacrificial love. Joining with other disciples broadens our understanding and creates a safe place to share our hurts and our celebrations. Discipleship is formed by our beliefs and our participation in communal worship, but it is defined and refined by our small group and committee participation.

I invite you to seriously consider participating in a small group. We hope to have many opportunities at Grace throughout this school year. Taking our discipleship seriously and surrendering to God's will through communal learning, service, and love has a transformative effect on us, as individuals, and our community. All are welcome, all our invited, all have value, all our loved.

"Two are better than one because they have a good return for their hard work. If either should fall, one can pick up the other. But how miserable are those who fall and don't have a companion to help them up!"

-Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

We are currently collecting:

- Hamburger Helper
- Fruit cups (4 per pkg)

The meal will also include:

- Can of Corn. Provided by UDMO
- Gift card for meat. Provided by Foundation Grant

Packing day is Sept. 17, after Coffee @Grace

MISSION PROJECTS

School Has Started!
We are excited to continue our outreach again this year by providing a meal each month for all the families in Head Start. Thank you for your faithful participation in this vital ministry—it makes a real difference in the lives of these families!

THE BANQUET
https://thebanquetsf.org/

October 18th those who are interested can serve a meal at **The Banquet in Sioux Falls, SD**. For more details please check out the easel in the narthex or speak to Keith Bress about this mission opportunity. Sign-ups will be available in the Narthex.

Home Delivered Meals

aka Meals on Wheels

Grace is blessed with the opportunity to feed hungry people in our own community. September is our next opportunity to deliver meals to shut-in neighbors. This mission only takes 2 hours a day, but has a huge impact. Our assigned days are Thur. and Fri. You will find more information and a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Contact Sheryl Larson, 512-657-1288, with questions.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

UMM will have their first breakfast of the season on September 20th at 8:00 AM. Everyone is welcome!

Program is on the Shayla Bee Fund
We are pleased to share that **Jerry Faulkner** will be giving a presentation about the **Shayla Bee Fund**, an organization dedicated to helping families in need during difficult times.

Ordinary People Attempting Extraordinary Things
The Shayla Bee Fund exists to help responsible, working-class families facing the overwhelming challenges of a child in medical crisis. Their mission is simple yet powerful: *ordinary people coming together to do extraordinary things.*

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

Our next meeting is October 2nd at 1:30

READING REVIEWS

Our United Women in Faith group continues to add books to our church library each year from their recommended reading program to supplement books already in our library. There are adult books, both fiction and nonfiction, relating to Education on Missions, Nurturing Community, Leadership Development, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. There is also a children's and youth section. We encourage all of you to check out what our church library has to offer. Here is a review of a couple of books UWFaith have purchased.

The Book of Rosy: A Mother's Story of Separation at the Border by Rosayra Pablo Cruz and Julie Schwietert Collazo. This wrenching story shares the plight of the many families separated at the U.S./ Mexican border. Rosayra shares the agonizing tale of seeking asylum in the U.S. after fleeing her home country of Guatemala with her two young boys only to be seized and forcibly separated at the Arizona border.

The Land is not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery by Sarah Augustine. This prophetic book is written by a Pueblo woman reframing the colonization of North America and the devastating effects on indigenous cultures and the planet. The author asserts that what was done in the name of Christ must be undone in the name of Christ. White settlers saw land for the taking and failed to consider the perspective of the people already here.

A book in our children's section is The Seed who was Afraid to be Planted by Anthony DeStefano and illustrated by Erwin Madrid. This book was endorsed by the National Day of Prayer and helps young readers to cultivate the courage they need to face their fears and understand that good can come out of the most frightening situation, as long as they have faith.

UWF Meeting Dates	Esther Circle
Thursday at 1:30 pm August 7 October 2 December 4	on the 4th Tuesday at 5:00 September Ruth Circle 3rd Thursday at 1:30 pm starting in March

WOSHIP COMMITTEE

From the Worship Committee…

Hopefully, if you worship in person or online with us, you have seen the new banner hanging on the front wall of the sanctuary. This was created by people in GUMC after discussions in our worship committee meetings. It was felt that we needed to soften the hard surfaces in the room. We also wanted to create more color on a huge neutral wall.

The new green banner is the color to be used after Pentecost. Green is a color of growth, new life, change. In the weeks following Pentecost, as a church we are to be considering how we can grow as persons of faith and as a congregation in service to the world, showing justice and kindness. Green is the focus color used in worship until the first Sunday in Advent.

We as a team selected different shades of green. We threw in a little gold to add more texture and interest. You will notice that there are a number of what quilters call four-patch blocks. The four little squares could represent our founder, John Wesley's basic belief that we know God in four ways: through Scripture, through Tradition, through Reason, and through our own personal Experience.
The creation of this banner was made possible through the contributions of Shirley Oswald, Linda O'Clair, Linda Bress, Cyndi O'Hara, Sue Hitchcock, Jane Ingledue, Brownie Small, and Jan Watson, each of whom applied their artistic expertise to the project. This banner is presented to GUMC for the glory of God.

Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for adult volunteers to assist with a variety of needs. If you're interested in helping out, please sign up on the sheets located in the Narthex. Your time and support are greatly appreciated!

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.

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

**** there will be no classes the week of the fair ****

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.

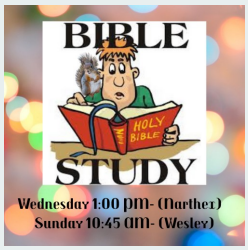
Chair Yoga offers gentle stretching and movement using a chair for support—ideal for all fitness levels, especially those looking for a low-impact option.

No matter your experience, these 30-minute sessions are a great way to care for your body in a supportive environment. Come give them a try! Bring a friend!

Weighted Works with LOVE

Ecumenical Group that meets the Fourth Tuesday 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.

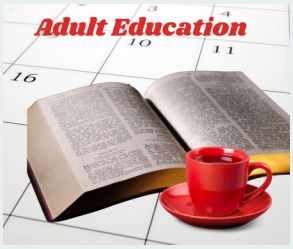


Men's Bible Studty

Wednesdays at 1:00–12:00 PM
Narthex

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!



Adult Education
Sundays at 10:45 AM
Wesley Room

Our Adult Education group gathers each Sunday morning following worship. Together, we take time to revisit the scripture passages and sermon from the service, sharing insights, questions, and personal reflections. This welcoming discussion group offers a chance to grow in faith, deepen understanding, and build meaningful connections with others in our church family.

Parenting the Love and Logic Way®

Facilitated by: Jessica Amendt

Co-Founder and CEO of Grit B4 Grace

Six sessions designed to help parents equip kids with character, compassion, problem solving skills and more! This parenting program is designed to give you practical skills that can be used immediately!

You will learn how to:

•Stay calm when your kids do incredibly upsetting things.

•Set enforceable limits.

•Avoid enabling and begin empowering.

•Help your kids learn from mistakes so they don't repeat them.

Date:	Wednesday October 1, 2025 to November 5, 2025
Time:	6pm-8pm w/Free Childcare 6-8pm & Free Meal at 5:30pm
Location:	Grace United Methodist Church 311 2nd Ave W, Spencer, IA 51301
Phone:	712-262-5970
Cost:	15/person ~ $25/couple (1 book) ~ $30 (2 books)

Special Worship &Potluck

You're invited to join us on Monday, September 23, at 9:00 AM as the Chamber comes to officially welcome Jenn Ingledue to her new role as *Event Coordinator and Community Liaison* here at GUMC. Let's celebrate together and give her a warm Grace welcome!

We're excited to announce that Wednesday night meals and Bell Choir will re-start on **Wednesday, October 1st**.

The Bell Choir, led by Director **Judi Clahoon**, practices Wednesday nights at 7:30 PM in the upstairs Bells Room. The group shares their music monthly during the school year at the 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service.

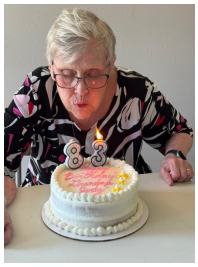
Have you ever thought, *"I can't play the bells, I can't read music, I don't know how to ring a bell,"* or had some other excuse? Here's your chance! No music-reading skills are required—ringing bells can be learned. The only prerequisite? You need to be able to count to four (and sometimes only to two or three!).

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THANK YOU!

Thank you, Jamie Horning, for coordinating this year's Root Beer Float outreach!

We are also grateful to all the volunteers who served floats on Thursday nights, as well as to everyone who donated root beer and ice cream to make this ministry possible.



Judith Olson would like to thank everyone for all of the birthday cards I received on July 27, 2025, as I celebrated my 83rd birthday. Thank you, also, for all of the cards, words of encouragement, and prayers for me during the past few weeks. I am blessed by our Grace United Methodist family

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Thank you to everyone who brought us meals after my recent mishap. The home-cooked food was such a blessing and absolutely delicious. Grace certainly has some wonderful cooks!
With gratitude,
Jim & Alison Herman

Fun fact: Bailey Swanson is the Student Body President at Coe College! She's a senior majoring in elementary education.

CALENDAR

Sunday Worship

9:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)

10:45 AM Fellowship (Narthex)

10:45 Aam Adult Education (Wesley)

Children's & Youth Ministry	September 16	6:30 PM	Library
Church Council	September 22	6:30 PM	Fireside
Finance	September 15	5:30 PM	Wesley
Grace Cares	September 24	3:00 PM	
Missions	September 1	3:30 PM	Library
SPRC	September 1	6:00 PM	
Trustees	September 15	6:30 PM	Library
Worship	September 3	4:00 PM	Library

Committee Meetings

Chair Yoga	Monday & Wednesday	10:00AM	Wesley
Coffee @ Grace	September 3 & 17, 9:30AM	9:30AM	Narthex
Essentrics Class	Monday & Wednesday	9:30AM	Wesley
Esther Circle	September 23	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	September 18	1:30 PM	
UMM	September 20	8:00 AM	BenTena Room
UWFaith	no meeting this month		
Weighted Works with Love	September 23	9:00 AM	Fellowship Hall
Adult Study Group	Sunday	10:45 AM	Wesley
Hymn Sing	Friday	4:00 PM	Chapel

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
Closed