# Grace United Methodist Church Newsletter

October 2025

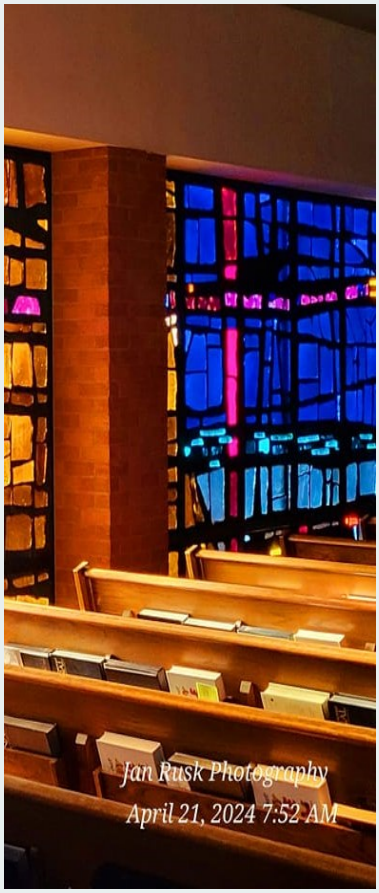
## OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

There will be several ways to acknowledge and thank Pastor Michael for the time and care he gives to our congregation. There will be a large board in the Narthex with signs and donation envelopes for you to select. Each of Grace's committees and mission groups will have a sign with individual envelopes. In place of personal gifts, Pastor Michael has asked that we do an acknowledgment that impacts the different committees and groups in the church.

The individual envelopes show donations of $5, $10, and $20. Please pick one or more of the envelopes to make a donation to our church groups.

The committees are: Worship, Missions, Finance (General Fund), Grace Cares, United Methodist Men, United Women in Faith, Children's Ministry, Trustees, and Staff-Parish Relations. The donations to each committee will be put towards their specific projects or to the general fund.

Cake will be served after the October 19th church service, and a card basket will be available then and other times throughout the month.

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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

"The truth is everyone is going to hurt you: you just gotta find the ones worth suffering for" -Bob Marley-

In the month of October Grace UMC will be beginning the 2025-26 Grace Kidz program, participating in Charge Conference, preparing our pledges for the 2026 financial year, beginning a new class for parents titled "Parenting the Love and Logic way.", starting two small groups, and worshipping together through a sermon series titled C.H.U.R.C.H. The ministry tasks for myself and the leaders of Grace UMC are piling up. I would even go so far as to say it is overwhelming currently. That being said, I appreciate the number of Grace crew that are stepping up to help in so many ways.

When busyness effects my emotions and well being it is important for me to remember the two greatest commandments…

"One of them, a legal expert, tested him. 'Teacher what is the greatest commandment in the Law?' He replied 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it; You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. All the Law and Prophets depend on these two commands.'" -Matthew 22:35-40 -

Jesus points out that our two main prioritize as disciples is loving God and loving others. When I feel overwhelmed it is easy to allow tension and negative emotions to affect my demeanor and behavior. My focus on accomplishing the task to the purpose of the task can intrude on my attention to loving God and loving neighbor. In these moments, my mind even has the ability to justify my negative actions and reactions to others. It is very important for me to keep this command from Jesus on my mind, particularly in busy times.

Do you find yourself setting the golden rule on the self when your role, task, or purpose is being obstructed? I acknowledge that every leader at Grace is human and imperfect. I am not naïve enough to think that in planning, executing, and/or debriefing ministry events or programs feelings haven't been hurt. We are relational and don't always articulate well, or at all, when we feel slighted, dismissed, or left out. I pray that our developing relationships allow us to speak our truth when these moments happen; not with the purpose of judging but in fact to stay connected with one another.

May all of us be reminded that we called to be a unique community that seeks to love God, others, and ourselves. I pray that we hold our name in high regard as we share grace with one another in midst of short comings, missteps, and oversights. When ever we are visioning, planning, and performing the ministry God is calling us to may we keep Jesus command at the for front, experiencing God's love, practicing that love with one another, and sharing the love with others.

*"If I speak in tongues of human beings and of angels but I don't have love, I'm a clanging gong or clashing cymbal. If I have a gift of prophecy and I know all the mysteries and everything else, and if I have such complete faith that I can move mountains but I don't have love, I'm nothing. If I give away everything that I have and hand over my own body to feel good about what I've done but I don't have love, I receive no benefit whatsoever."* -1 Corinthians 13:1-3

*-Ecclesiastes 4:9-10*

## MISSION PROJECTS

**Grace UMC Meal for Head Start Families**
Each month, Grace has the joy of providing a meal for the families of Head Start students. These meals are more than just dinner — they are moments of connection, encouragement, and care. We are grateful for the chance to share God's love in such a simple, yet meaningful way.

"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." — Acts 2:46

We are currently collecting:

- Macaroni and Cheese
- Canned corn or green beans
- Fruit Snacks

The meal will also include:

- Apple sauce. Provided by UDMO

Packing day is Oct. 15, after Coffee @Grace

Please have tour items to the church by Sunday Oct. 12th.

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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.

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Watermark Mission Hosted at Grace

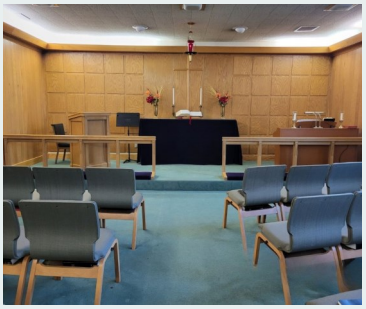
Grace United Methodist Church hosted a team from Watermark Mission for two weeks in September. This 501c3 team is headquartered in Wisconsin and has as a mission to help repair and replace damage to homes from (generally) water damage like the Spencer Flood. Typical projects would be reframing, roof repair, heating and cooling, dry wall, hanging doors, and other typically"skilled" jobs.

They have breakfast each morning in the BenTena Room, made by their own travelling-cook. They take a sack lunch out to the job site each day, and then return for an evening meal together. Our church is particularly comfortable since our lower-level bathrooms have showers and then the upstairs has separate rooms with cots for the men and women on the team.

Watermark Mission has a fundraiser in February. Donations or further questions can be directed to Gary Asher, President at Grace UMC will host other groups throughout the next months. These people, whom are often retired, donate their time and energy to provide mission work for which they are specifically talented and capable.

https://www.watermark-mission.org/

## WORSHIP COMMITEE



The Chapel @ Grace

Sometimes we just need a quiet place. A space apart from the noise of the world, where we can sit in God's presence and be still. "*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*" (Matthew 11:28)

At Grace, that place is the Chapel. Whenever the church doors are open, so is this sacred little room. Over the years, it has held the joy of small weddings, the beauty of baptisms, and the tenderness of special services. Yet just as often, it simply holds one person's prayer, one person's silence, one person's need to draw near to God.

If your soul ever longs for rest during the week, if you'd like a moment to pray before worship on Sunday, or if you simply need a space to breathe, the Small Chapel is waiting. Step inside, let the quiet surround you, and remember: God is already here.

*"Be still, and know that I am God."* — Psalm 46:10

## ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

Grace United Methodist Church will hold our Annual Charge Conference on Sunday, October 5 at 6:00 PM

This is our official yearly business meeting, led by our District Superintendent.

At the Charge Conference we will:

- Celebrate the ministries of the past year.
- Approve leadership and officers for the coming year.
- Review membership, finances, and ministry reports.
- Approve clergy compensation.
- Look ahead with prayer and vision for the future of our church.

All are welcome to attend, and members of the Church Council will have the privilege of voting. Please join us as we reflect on God's work among us and plan faithfully for the year to come.

We will be joined by other churches from the Northwest district.

## UNITED METHODIST MEN

UMM will have their first breakfast of the season on October 11 20th at 8:00 AM. Everyone is welcome!

**Program is GoServe**

## UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

SOUP & PIE FALL FESTIVITIES

United Women in Faith is planning a meal of soups and pie for Sunday, November 9th, following the church service at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Please put this on your calendar. This is our annual fundraiser for UWFaith to reach our $1,500.00 annual pledge and be able to contribute to other projects and agencies benefiting women, children and youth. There will be a silent auction and some other fun activities to share in fellowship together.

READING REVIEWS

Here are a few more books that can be found in the United Women in Faith section of our church library for your reading enjoyment.

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson. This is a historical novel about a packhorse woman librarian who confronts prejudice to bring books and their importance to the Appalachian area of Kentucky. And we now have the follow-up book, The Book Woman's Daughter.

The Four Winds is an epic novel by Kristin Hannah centered on a woman and her family trying to survive in the Great Plains during the years of dust bowls and the Great Depression along with the harsh realities of division between the haves and have-nots.

Under our spiritual growth category is Until Unity, a book speaking to our current times. If unity is so important to the heart of God, why is the church one of the most divided groups on earth?

| UWF Meeting Dates | Esther Circle |
|---|---|
| Thursday at 1:30 pm<br>October 2<br>December 4 | on the 4th Tuesday at 5:00 |
| | Ruth Circle |
| | 3rd Thursday at 1:30 pm starting in March |

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

## LAY LEADER MESSAGE—SANDY HEERDT

**OCTOBER: P-A-S-T-O-R A-P-P-R-E-C-I-A-T-I-O-N M-O-N-T-H**

**P**astor Michael - We thank God for you.
**A** great role model for all of us
**S**peaks from the heart of God
**T**akes time to be a patient listener
**O**utstanding Daddy for his sweet boys
**R**espectful to all, no matter their circumstances

**A**cknowledges when he wished he had done something differently.
**P**raises God with all his heart
**P**raise Band leader - bringing so much enthusiasm
**R**ambunctious with the kids (energetic and a little rowdy)
**E**ffective communicator - Michael doesn't need notes
**C**alm and thoughtful when needed
**I**nitiates our vision and ways to achieve it
**A** sense of humor is essential, and our Pastor has one!
**T**heological and resourceful. He's a reader and encourages us to search & find.
**I**ntegrity could be his middle name
Optimistic , Objective, Open-minded, and OUTGOING!
**N**eighborly as in "Love your neighbor as yourself"

**M**aster Pastor: Is there such a title? I think so, as it describes our's.
**O**fficiate at weddings, funerals and other important moments in our lives
**N**urturer: He's generous with kind words of support
**T**alented in the kitchen, as he feeds his flock on Wednesday evenings
**H**opeful - as in keeping us looking upward and outward

**THANK YOU, PASTOR MICHAEL!**

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Ministry is looking for more hands to help with the children in our church family. Does being in the presence of children bring you smiles and that sense of wonder? Come help play a game,tie a shoe,read a story or help with a craft!

We are needing two adults in the Children's Nursery each Sunday. This would be during worship, with the service streamed on the nursery tv. Please consider volunteering one Sunday a month.

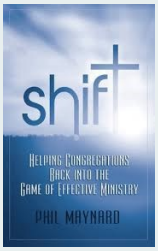
Classes for young people are beginning Wednesday, October 1,2025. Classes will be held each Wednesday 6:00-7:00 P.M. and will follow the Spencer School calendar. Lead teachers will conduct the planning and lessons, but will be needing assistance for the classes to run smoothly. Please consider volunteering once a month on Wednesday evening for this ministry.

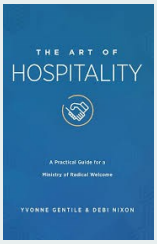
Children would love your assistance and sometimes just a kind heart to help them.

## SCENES FROM THE CARNIVAL

## SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Here are some recommended books to purchase for our upcoming Hospitality Team Study. Pictures of books at top of e-mail. Starting Sunday October 12th at 7pm



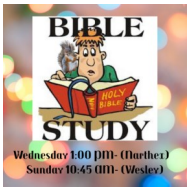

**Hospitality Development Team**- This group will be using the book *Shift: Helping Congregations Back Into the Game of Effective Ministry* to discuss our hospitality culture. We will look at how we can use our building, our people, and our talents to be an intentionally welcoming place in our community.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

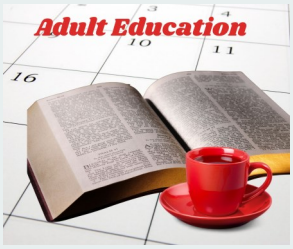
**Developing Discipleship Practices**- This group will be using exerts from several books to discuss ways to interject scripture and spiritual practices in our daily lives. If you are seeking ways for your belief to be reflected in your life this will be a great group for you. This group will meet Tuesday 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.

**Men's Bible Studty**

**Wednesdays at 1:00–12:00 PM**
Narthex




**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.

October 1st & 15th

**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, WesleyRoom**

**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!

October 28th

**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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

**Starts Oct 1st**

Date:
Wednesday, October 1, to November 5

Time:
6pm–8pm with Free Childcare 6–8pm & Free Meal at 5:30pm

Cost:
$15/person – $25/ couple (1 book) – $30 (2 books)

### Parenting the Love and Logic Way®

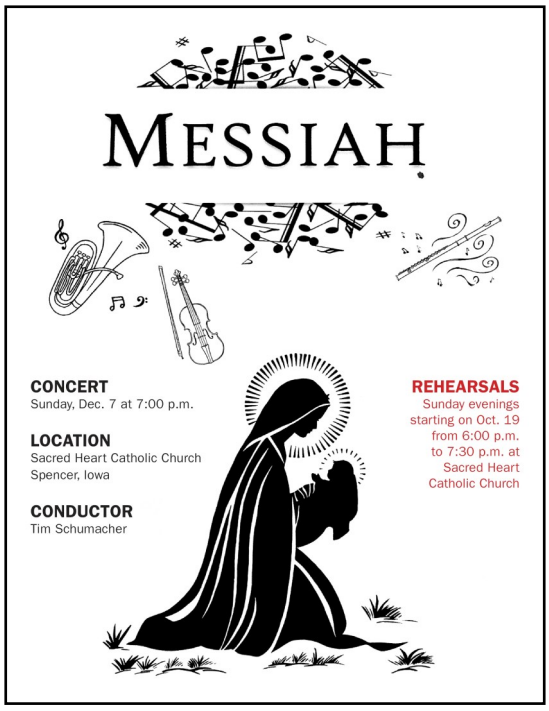
Facilitated by: Jessica Amendt

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.
- Raise kids who are family members rather than dictators.
- Avoid un-winnable power-struggles and arguments.



**Special Worship**

Worship in the Fellowship Hall – Sunday, October 26th
Join us in the Fellowship Hall as we gather for worship on Sunday, October 26th. This special service will include our **Consecration Sunday**, where we share our financial pledges for the 2026 ministry year.

We will also celebrate the accomplishments of our **missions and ministries** alongside our mission committee. Come and be part of this joyful time of worship, thanksgiving, and community!

On Sunday, November 2nd, we will gather for **All Saints' Sunday** at Grace UMC. This is a time to pause and remember those who have gone before us—our loved ones, friends, and members of our church family—whose lives touched ours in meaningful ways. As we honor their memory, we give thanks for the love, guidance, and joy they brought into our lives, and we celebrate the lasting impact of their faith and presence in our community. Join us as we remember, reflect, and rejoice in the gift of their lives.

Join the **Music Ministry** at Grace United Methodist Church!

Grace UMC offers several opportunities for singers and musicians of all ages and skill levels:

**Grace Band** – We're always looking for new singers and musicians! Practices are Thursday afternoons and Sunday mornings before worship. Interested? See Pastor Michael to sign up.

**Chancel Choir** – Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. Join us as we lift our voices in praise and worship.

**Bell Choir** – Practices are Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 PM, following choir rehearsal. No need to be a professional musician—you just need to be able to count from 1 to 4 (sometimes 3!). Musicians of all levels are welcome.

**Hymn Sing** – Most Fridays at 4:00 PM in the Chapel. This is a joyful hour of music open to everyone—bring your friends!

Northwest Iowa Corridor Habitat for Humanity®

Northwest Iowa Corridor Habitat for Humanity (NWIC HFH) is committed to putting God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope. Rooted in servant leadership, we believe that everyone deserves a safe and decent place to live, and that through community partnership we can answer Christ's call to love our neighbors.

This fall, our mission has become especially urgent in Spencer. We are currently building two homes for hardworking families in need, located at **601 6th Avenue East** and **617 10th Street East**. These homes are more than construction projects—they are a living testimony to what can happen when a community comes together to serve.

We are reaching out to our brothers and sisters in the faith community of Spencer to humbly ask for your support. Any contribution—whether **monetary donations** or **volunteer service from your congregation**—will make a profound impact. Your generosity will help us finish these homes and welcome two deserving families into a place they can finally call their own.

Habitat's mission has always been about more than houses. It is about people of all faiths and walks of life working side by side in fellowship and service. In Spencer, we are blessed with an opportunity to demonstrate servant leadership in action, showing that the church is at its strongest when it cares for those in need.

We ask you to prayerfully consider partnering with us. Together, we can turn the vision of affordable housing into reality, and in doing so, we can reflect the love of Christ to our neighbors and our community.

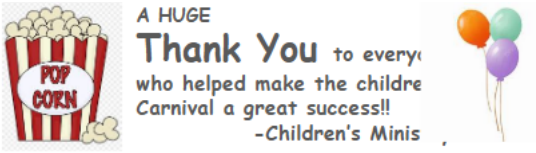
Joseph Bjornstad - Executive Director

northwestiowahabitat@gmail.com

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to the mission teams of Watermark ministries and GoServe for staying at Grace UMC and assisting on rebuilding basements for our local Spencer residents impacted by the 2024 flood.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

6 Grace UMC and 1 Ruthven UMC members will be attending the Leadership Institute titled "Rise" at Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS. Please be in prayer for Jane Ingledue, Roger Ingledue, Cyndi O'Hara, Ben Pullen, Bri Pullen, Pastor Michael, and Maureen Horsley as they travel, worship, learn, and grow together at this event.

Let us lift up in prayer those who need God's comfort and strength. May God's peace surround them and bring hope to their hearts:

Jamie Horning

Gordon Watson,\Judith Olson,

Bill Prentice

Russ and Sue Hitchcock

Delores Barringer

The family of Bob Graham

The family of Everett Handy, who passed away on October 1st. Arrangements are pending.

*"Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."* – 1 Peter 5:7

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http://www.spencergumc.com/send-prayer-request.php

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

## BABIES!

Jase Matthew Lechleitner

Born August 21st

7 lbs - 19”

Parents: Makayla & Jordan Lechleitner

Grandparents: Dana & Tricia Gee

Great-grandparents: Fred & Shirley Spangler

Lyza Mae Gross

Born September 8th

5 lbs, 13 oz - 18.25”

Parents: Riley Herman & Kinzer Gross

Grandparents: Jim & Alison Herman

Great-grandparent: Susan Myers

Hayden James Clemens

Born September 21st

5 lbs, 11 oz - 18”

Parents: Alyssa & Jimmy Clemens

Grandparents: Dana & Tricia Gee

Great-grandparents:Fred & Shirley Spangler

"Babies are a beautiful blessing from God. We lift up these little ones in prayer, asking for God’s protection, health, and joy to surround them each day. May their families be strengthened with love, wisdom, and patience as they nurture these precious gifts of life. Let us continue to keep them in our hearts and prayers, trusting in God’s grace and care."

*"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him."* — Psalm 127:3

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

## NEW MEMBERS!

Welcome to our new members! We celebrate your presence among us and look forward to growing in Grace together.

*"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God"* - Romans 15:7

Pete
Hanson

Pamela, Karen, Liz.Aimerance, Arianne, Jean Pierre, Emily

## Sunday Worship

9:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:45 AM Fellowship (Narthex)
10:45 Aam Adult Education (Wesley)

## Wednesday Night schedule

5:30 - Community Meal (free-will offering)
6:00- Grace Kids
6:00 - Parenting the Love & Logic Way
6:00 - Choir Practice
7:00 - Bell Choir Practice

## Committee Meetings

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Children's & Youth Ministry | October 14 | 6:30 PM | Library |
| Church Council | October 27 | 6:30 PM | Fireside |
| Finance | October 13 | 5:30 PM | Wesley |
| Grace Cares | October 15 | 3:00 PM | |
| Missions | October | 3:30 PM | Library |
| SPRC | October 6 | 6:00 PM | |
| Trustees | October 13 | 6:30 PM | Library |
| Worship | October 1 | 4:00 PM | Library |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chair Yoga | Monday & Wednesday | 10:00AM | Wesley |
| Coffee @ Grace | October 1 & 15, 9:30AM | 9:30AM | Narthex |
| Essentrics Class | Monday & Wednesday | 9:30AM | Wesley |
| Esther Circle | October 28 | 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 | October 16 | 1:30 PM | |
| UMM | October 11 | 8:00 AM | BenTena Room |
| UWFaith | October 9 | | |
| Weighted Works with Love | October 28 | 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: Birad Johnson
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