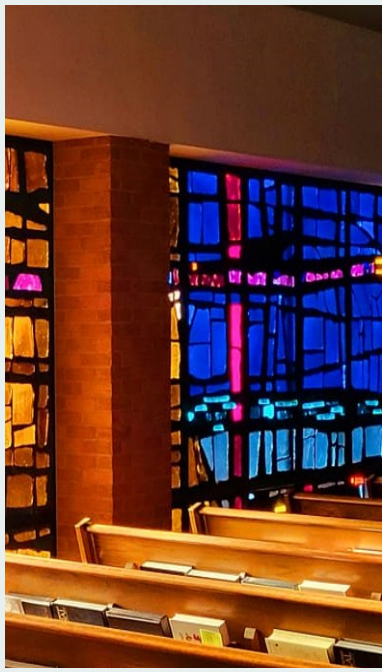
Grace United Methodist Church Newsletter

October 2026



MISSION STATEMENT

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

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

SPRC has set Sunday, October 25th as a special day to show our gratitude and appreciation for Pastor Michael and all he does for our church family.

Please join us for a reception following the 9:30–10:30 AM worship service, featuring cake, refreshments, and fellowship.

Members and friends are encouraged to share their appreciation in whatever way feels meaningful—cards, gifts, kind words, singing, and even dancing!
(Just kidding… sort of!)

Let's come together to celebrate Pastor Michael and let him know just how much he is appreciated!

Thank you, Pastor Michael, for sharing your faith, heart, and ministry with us!

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To contact Pastor Michael

Email:

ThePastor @spencergumc.com

Call:

712-262-5970

Pastor Michael's BLOG:

The Bare Church

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR MICHAEL

It is finally here! The fair is over and Wednesday Night at Grace is about to begin. On Wednesday October 7th we will begin our re-vamped Grace Kidz. We will be welcoming children, K-5th grade, to join us after school (3:45pm) to come and share in crafts, games, and other activities. We will also be having a lesson time sharing the love of Jesus through scripture. This time will transition into our Wednesday Night Meals. At 5:30pm, all are welcome to join us for food and fellowship. This is open to all in the community to come and feast together. We will end the night with a worship service titled Grace University. This short service will engage our minds and relationships through visual aide lessons and conversation. It's a unique worship experience for those looking for something different. .

As members and participants of Grace UMC, I invite you to be in prayer over our Wednesday programming. Be in prayer for the help that will be dedicating time to make this happen. Be in prayer for all those who will participate, that they would meet a loving God that transforms hearts. Be in prayer that God's Spirit leads all our words, thoughts, and actions. We invite you to come and participate, whether that be partaking, volunteering or both. But if you are unable to, we invite you to be a prayer warrior.

As the program year begins, my prayer is that we all continue to grow in Grace together. That we seek to connect with God by our service to one another. That our reputation of love and care continues to grow. That we would be missionally minded and Christ centered in our ministry. Thank you for how you participate, support, and volunteer to help Grace thrive in the Spencer community and beyond.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT GRACE

Grace Kidz | 3:45–5:30 PM
Games, crafts, learning, and lots of fun! We're creating a safe, welcoming space for kids to grow and experience God's love. **Volunteers are needed** to help, laugh, and be present with our kids.

Wednesday Night Meal | 5:30–6:00 PM
Come enjoy a delicious meal, share fellowship, and make new connections in our community. **Gather around the table, meet new friends, and share God's love.**

Grace University | 6:00–6:30 PM
A new, interactive weekday worship experience with **Pastor Michael**. Think **Bill Nye meets church**—a short, engaging time of lessons, songs, questions, and discovering faith together.

Meal Plan– October Through December 2026
The group coordinating each meal and the tentative menu will be listed below for the remainder of 2026. Please note that menus are subject to change.

Volunteers are always welcome to help with meal preparation, setup, serving, and cleanup! If you would like to help, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or contact Alison Herman. She will connect you with the appropriate person.

Thank you for helping make our Wednesday night family meals possible. We appreciate everyone who gives their time and talents to bring our church family and community together!

Date	Committee	Meal
Oct. 7	Worship	TatorTot casserole
Oct. 14	UWF	Spaghetti and meatballs
Oct. 21	Trustess	Burgers and Hot Dogs
Oct. 28	Staff	Tacos
Nov. 4	Missions	Soup
Nov. 11	Finance	Porkchops
Nov. 18	UMM	Breakfast for dinner
Nov. 25	Break	
Dec. 2	Grace Cares	Loose meat sandwiches
Dec. 9	Children's Ministry	Pizza
Dec. 16	SPRC	Potato bar
Dec. 23	Break	
Dec. 30	Break	

MISSION PROJECTS

We are collecting:

- Hamburger Helper
- Canned green beans
- Fruit Cups

JumpStart

- October 2026 JumpStart Menu
- Hamburger Helper (Pick one that takes less milk)
- Canned Green Vegetables 14 oz
- Fruit Cups 4 pack
- Gift Card from Fareway for meat. (furnished by Foundation Grant)

Please! please! please! shop early.

We will be packing bags on **Wed, October 21** after morning coffee

Knotting Hope: Blankets of Bravery

Tie a blanket. Share hope. Make a difference.

Join us at Grace United Methodist Church on **Monday, October 19, from 1:00–4:00 p.m.** for a fun afternoon of fellowship and service as we make tie blankets for the Child Advocacy Center in Sioux City.

The blankets provide comfort to children who receive services through the center. Our goal is to help have 50 blankets ready for the new year!

Everyone Can Help!

Come make blankets — no experience needed!
Donate fleece fabric for the project.
Donate money to help purchase materials.
Drop off pre-purchased fleece at the church office.

Want to make a monetary donation? Use the Knotting Hope – Blankets of Bravery giving option on our website.

Have questions or want to help**?**
Contact Bri Pullen at **bpullen@spencergumc.com**.

Let's get knotty for a good cause!

Together, we can wrap children in comfort, hope, and love.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Grace Kidz

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." — **Mark 10:14**

Each Wednesday from 3:45–5:30 p.m., children from our community will come to Grace for snacks, games, crafts, activities, fellowship and opportunities to experience God's love in a safe and welcoming environment. At 5:30 p.m., families will be invited to join us for a free meal before heading home.

The school district will provide transportation to the Clay County Administration Building, where Grace volunteers will meet the children and safely escort them to the church.

We Need YOU!

Grace Kidz 2.0 will take the hands and hearts of our congregation to make it happen! Volunteers are needed to meet and escort children from the bus stop, prepare and serve snacks and meals, help with games and crafts, assist with activities, and simply spend time welcoming and encouraging our kids.

For more information and registration:

https://www.spencergumc.com/children-youth-and-families.php

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Please join us in welcoming **Judi Calhoon as the new Finance Committee Chairperson** at Grace United Methodist Church! We look forward to working with Judi as she steps into this important role supporting the financial stewardship and ministries of our church.

We also want to extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to **Paul and Julie Kassel** as they prepare for their new adventures in Des Moines this fall. We are grateful for their contributions to Grace and wish them happiness and blessings in this exciting new chapter of their lives. They will be missed!

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

All Grace Women - Mark Your Calendars - Invite a Friend

UWFaith is planning a Soul Care Day here at Grace UMC

Saturday, **October 17 - 9:30 am to 2:30 p**m

A day to take time for yourself to relax and refresh in fellowship with one another. Meditation - a Prayer Walk - Crafts - Music & More! A salad luncheon and dessert will be provided

And all is free!

We would ask that you fill out a registration form found on the narthex table and turn into or mail to the church office by Monday, October 12th so we can plan for numbers. It should be a great time to build those "healthy relationships".

Soup & Pie Fundraiser is scheduled for **Nov. 8th**

https://uwfaith.org/

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The **United Methodist Men** will begin programming for the year on **Saturday, October 10, at 8:30 AM**.

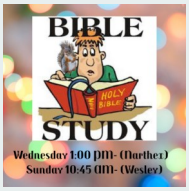
Join us for **breakfast and a program**! Everyone is welcome to attend—it's **not just for men anymore!**

Come enjoy good food, fellowship, and a great program. We hope to see you there!

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

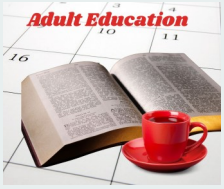
In the Methodist tradition .disciples grow best in the context of Christian community. An essential part of becoming deeply committed Christians is our connection with others in small groups, and that is true now more than ever. Small groups allow us to find encouragement, prayer, learning and life together. Therefore, we emphasize that persons be committed to a small group.

Small groups can meet anytime and anywhere! Every small group is encouraged to focus on growing in God's Word through regular use and study of the Bible, practicing prayer together and for one another, and making an impact both in the lives of group members and in the community and world beyond. If you would like to start a new group or have an idea for a new small group, please contact Pastor Michael..



Men's Bible Studty

Wednesdays at 1:00–2:00 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.

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!

Move, Stretch, and Breathe at GUMC!

Grace United Methodist Church invites you to enjoy our growing lineup of fitness and wellness classes—perfect for reducing stress, improving flexibility, and supporting overall well being.

Instructor-led Chair Yoga: A gentle, beginner-friendly class focused on stretching, strengthening, and relaxation—all from a chair. Tuesdays & Thursdays • 12:00–12:30 PM (Wesley Room).

Cost: $5 per session. Sign up at www.SpencerGUMC.com or contact the church office. Questions? Email mandikingyoga@gmail.com or call/text (712) 260-3314

Video-Led Fitness Classes (Wesley Room) Mondays & Wednesdays:

9:30–10:00 AM – Essentrics

10:00–10:30 AM – Chair Yoga

Essentrics uses slow, controlled movements to build strength, flexibility, and balance. Chair Yoga offers gentle, accessible stretching for all fitness levels.

Come as you are, bring a friend, and take time to care for your body and spirit—wellness is for everyone at GUMC!

Saturday Prayer Group

Come as you are—everyone is welcome!

Join us for a time of **prayer, reflection, and fellowship** as we gather together in God's presence.

You don't need to be comfortable praying out loud—**silent prayer is always welcome.** There's no pressure and no perfect way to participate.

We meet every other Saturday at 2:00 PM
Grace United Methodist Chapel

October Dates, Saturday, 10th& 24th

CLASSIFIED ADS

Help Wanted: Church Treasurer

We are actively seeking someone interested in stepping into the role of Church Treasurer! This is an important ministry that helps ensure our church's financial resources are managed responsibly and support the mission and ministries of Grace.

According to *The United Methodist Church Book of Discipline* (¶ 258.4), the treasurer works closely with the Financial Secretary and the Finance Committee, but each has a distinct role. The Financial Secretary maintains records of contributions and payments, while the Treasurer oversees the disbursement of funds, tracks money received and spent, and provides regular financial reports. The Finance Committee oversees budgeting, financial policies, stewardship, and accountability.

This is a meaningful opportunity to serve behind the scenes and help keep our church's ministries moving forward. You don't have to do it alone! The treasurer works alongside other church financial leaders as part of a team.

If you are interested in learning more or would like to explore this opportunity, please contact Pastor Michael Slininger or the church office at 712-262-5970 or office@spencergumc.com.

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep **Terri Ewoldt, John Young, Russ Hitchcock, Al Andis, Mark Byers, and Pastor Shazzy** in your prayers as they face health challenges.

Please also pray for **family and friends**, asking God to surround them with healing, strength, and protection as they face health concerns.

SPARC facility as they continue the repairs on the old longhouse side of the building.

Remember those experiencing **homelessness and other difficult circumstances**. We are thankful for the opportunity to share God's love and blessings with those who attended **The Banquet Ocyyober 3rd** Please continue to keep everyone who was served in your prayers—that they may feel welcomed, cared for, and reminded of God's love.

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."
— Psalm 34:18 (NIV)

BLESSINGS FOR NEW BEGINNINGS

Please celebrate the birth of **Brextyn Bonin**, born to **CJ and Haley (Schwenneker) Bonin**. May God bless this new beginning with love, joy, health, and many precious moments for their growing family.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." — **Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)**

JOYS & CONCERNS

Our church family shared a truly special morning on Sunday, October 4th, as we came together to support and celebrate the Triggs family—Brett, Alexa, Maeley , and Kinsley.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this benefit and celebration so meaningful for the family. Special thanks to **Pastor Michael** for his support and encouragement; **Alison Herman** and **Bri Pullen** for helping spread the word; **Donna Todd**, **Lisa Elliott**, and **Linda O'Clair** for providing a lovely variety of refreshments; **Jamie Horning** for always backing us up with kitchen needs; and **Hy-Vee** for baking and decorating the beautiful cake.

Most importantly, THANK YOU to our wonderful congregation for stepping up with generous gifts, heartfelt cards, and financial contributions. Your kindness, generosity, and support truly made a difference and showed the Triggs family just how much they are loved.

With grateful hearts,
Hosts: Linda Wittstruck, Jane Ingledue & Sandy Heerdt ♥

Thank you to everyone who came, blessed is an understatement!

Can't thank our church family enough, definitely a full circle moment as a lot of the people who helped were at the benefit when I came home with my parents after my heart surgeries. — **Alexa & Brett Triggs**

Sunday Morning

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

WednesdayNights

3:45 PM Grace Kidz
5:30 PM Family Meal
6:00 PM Grace University
6:30 PM Bell Choir

Committee Meetings

Children's & Youth Ministry	Oct 11	Nov 10	6:30 PM	Wesley
Church Council	Oct 26	Nov 23	6:30 PM	Fireside
Finance (Quarterly)	No mtg	No mtg	5:30 PM	Wesley
Grace Cares	Nov	Nov 11	3:30 PM	
Missions	Oct 5	Nov 2	3:30 PM	Library
SPRC	Oct 5	Nov 2	6:00 PM	Fireside
Trustees	Oct 12	Nov 12	6:30 PM	Library
Worship	Oct 3	Oct 31	10:00 AM	Library

Monthly/Weekly Scheduled Events

Essentrics Class	Monday Wednesday		9:30AM	Wesley
Chair Yoga	Monday Wednesday		10:00AM	Wesley
Coffee @ Grace	Oct 7 & 21	Nov 4 & 18	9:30AM	Narthex
Yoga with Mandi	Tuesday/Thursday		12:00-12:30 PM	
Grace Band Practice	Thursdays		3:00 PM	Sanctuary
Loom Work Session	Wednesday		2:00-4:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
Men's Bible Study	Wednesday		1:00 PM	Narthex
Esther Circle	No mtg	Nov 28	10:00 AM	
Ruth Circle	Oct 15	Nov 19	1:30 PM	
UMM	Oct 10	Nov 14	8:00 AM	Wesley
UWFaith	Oct 1	Nov 0		
Weighted Works with Love	Oct 27	Nov 24	9:00 AM	Fellowship Hall
Adult Study Group	Sundsys		10:45 AM	Fireside
Package Jump Start Bags	Oct 21	Nov 18	10:30 AM	

Special Events

Tiggs Baby Shower & House Warming	Oct 4	10:45 AM	Narthex
Charge Conference	Oct 4	6:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
UWF—Soul CareDay	Oct 17	9:30AM-2:30 PM	
Knotting Hope: Blankets of Bravery	Oct 19	1:00-4:00PM	Fellowship Hall
UWF—Soup & Pie Fundraiser	Nov 8th		

The complete calendar may be accessed here.

CHAIRPERSON OF MINISTRY BOARDS:

Church Council: Ben Pullen
Co-Lay Leaders: Sandy Heerdt, Ben Pullen
Lay Member to Ann. Conference: Jenn Ingledue, Bri Pullen
Treasurer:
SPRC: Ric Guerrero
Trustee: Gary Small
Finance: Judi Calhoon
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