

Grace Notes

Newsletter

GUMPRAYER: PRAYERTEAM@SPENCERGUMC.COM

DECEMBER 2011

GracErsize Christmas Extravaganza



Come join the party and experience GracErsize in a whole new Light. It will be a night to remember with great music, dance, prizes and fellowship.



Saturday, December 17th at 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Please bring two non-perishable food items for our food pantry and a pair of socks or mittens. These items will be donated to those in need.

Register early for our door-buster prize. Sign-up on our Facebook page - GracErsize or call Kristin Schwenneker 712-363-2063 or Carla Swank 712-260-3601.

Light snacks and beverages will be provided. All are welcome to join in the fun!



Christian Book Club

As we prepare for Christmas we are reminded of a favorite Christmas story or book we enjoy reading each year. It might be something from our childhood, or something more recent. You are invited to come to the Christian Book Club gathering on Monday, December 5th, to talk about these books that have special meaning to you. We will be meeting in the narthex at 7:00. Please use the North door next to the chapel. Everyone is welcome to come, and bring a friend. See you on the 5th.



Merry Christmas to all of our friends and family.

May the Lord bless all of you this Christmas with peace, joy and love.

Grace Office Staff

'The Table'

• FREE TO ALL • FREE TO ALL •



December 29
5:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Fellowship Hall

Open to all those in need.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

Travis and I have conferred and are planning the following for the upcoming celebrations.

Christmas Eve worship: Travis will preach at 3 p.m. Chuck will preach at 7 p.m.

Christmas Day worship: We will lead a time of singing and worship and suggest Carols, coffee, hot chocolate, and cookies as a theme. Worship will be held at the regular time, 9:30. Come as you are. Relax and revel in the glory of Jesus' birth and presence in our lives.

New Year's Eve: Chuck will officiate a wedding at our church.

New Year's Day: Travis will lead us in a Covenant Renewal Service which John Wesley instituted and encouraged his preachers to continue as well. It was done on the first day of the New Year. So, 2012 is a perfect time to participate in this interesting worship service.

Pastor Chuck Kellogg



December Bible Readings

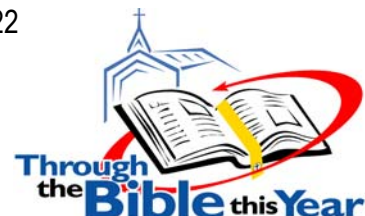
1. Romans 5-8
2. Romans 9-12
3. Romans 13-16
4. Ephesians 1-4
5. Ephesians 5,6; Psalm 119:1-80
6. Philippians 1-4
7. Colossians 1-4
8. 1 Timothy 1-4
9. 1 Tim 5,6; Tit. 1-3
10. 2 Timothy 1-4
11. Philemon; Hebrews 1-4
12. Hebrews 5-8
13. Hebrews 9-11
14. Hebrews 12,13; Jude
15. James 1-5
16. 1 Peter 1-5
17. 2 Peter 1-3; John 1
18. John 2-4
19. John 5,6
20. John 7,8
21. John 9-11
22. John 12-14
23. John 15-18
24. John 19-21
25. 1 John 1-5
26. Psalm 117,119:81-176; 2 John; 3 John
27. Revelation 1-4
28. Revelation 5-9
29. Revelation 10-14
30. Revelation 15-18
31. Revelation 19-22

Education Cookie Exchange

Education Cookie Exchange to be held on Sunday, Dec. 18th in the Narthex all proceeds to be used for camperships. Bring 2-3 dozen of your favorite Christmas cookie, bar, candy, snack, etc. as a donation. Then anyone can purchase a decorative container and receive 1 dozen for \$3.00 or 2 dozen for \$5.00 and have all of your baking completed for the holidays. Please sign up in advance so we have an idea of how big of an area we will need for display. Also you do not need to bring items to participate but it would greatly be appreciated.



Thank you,
Kristin Schwenneker
Education Chairman



THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to Pastor Paul & Lucille Hansen, Merle & Lorraine Yager, Jean Rowe, Betty Smith and Ruby Peterson for the giving of your time to fold the Grace Notes Newsletter. Your ministry is greatly appreciated! We couldn't do it without you.
Grace Office Staff



Thank you...

The United Methodist Men want to thank all of those involved with the recent Potato Dinner Fundraiser. A special thanks goes out to the women who baked their delicious pies and to the others who donated food items. Also thanks to the many people who served the food and helped cleanup afterwards. Because of your generosity, we will be able to help many others with our donations.
The United Methodist Men of Grace Church



United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women General Meeting December 1. 2:00 PM Christmas program by representatives from each circle. Circles will provide coffee and cookies. All women are welcome!

Thank you...

We wish to thank all those who gave to the Thanksgiving meal ministry. The kindness you have shown is so much appreciated to those who have received the meal. May the Lord bless you and your family for all you do in His namesake.
~Evangelism Committee

A Huge Thank You...

30 families were blessed with a "Thanksgiving Roasting Pan" this Thanksgiving. Thank you to all those who made them and who gave donations for them. May the Lord bless you all!!
Evangelism Committee



NewsLetter DEADLINE

4:00 PM on the 15th of each month. If it is after this time we will gladly put it in the following newsletter. Thank you for your help!

Thank You!

I had a great 85th birthday! Thank you Grace Church friends for you cards and good wishes! God's Blessings,
Rodney Swanson



The December breakfast meeting of United Methodist Men is scheduled for Saturday, December 17, 2011 at 8:00 AM in the Wesley Room at Grace United Methodist Church. All men are welcome to participate in the ministry of United Methodist Men and to enjoy fellowship, a delicious breakfast, devotions, as well as participation in our programs and service projects.

Thank You...

Thank you to all who signed the card for me following my hip surgery in Texas. I am doing ok at my daughters home. I am having home health therapy for a month.
Thanks to all and God Bless!
Cleone Farquhar

Grace Church United Methodist Men

Historical Moment: Remembering Christmas...

Grace United Methodist Church has long been an important part of the Petersen family, but the month of December has always been extra special to us. Maybe that's because our life together as a couple started with our marriage there in the chapel on December 26, 1959. Since that time we have celebrated five baptisms (four daughters and one grandchild), four confirmations, and three more weddings, one of which was also held in December. Grace United Methodist has been our church home for many of our family milestones.

Our December memories are many, but they start with the beautifully decorated sanctuary full of poinsettias, evergreen, and of course the Christmas tree. Our girls especially loved the times when huge real evergreen trees were donated to the church and decorated with hundreds of white lights and white and gold chrismons. They also remember the time our family took our turn lighting the advent candle together.

When you have four girls in the house, Christmas Eve services meant the first chance to wear your new Christmas dress. It also meant celebrating the birth of Jesus with wonderful Christmas music. Some of our favorites include Red Norris playing his guitar and singing "Sweet Little Jesus Boy", the Bell family – Nancy's solos, her duets with Mike, and Dan playing his trumpet, and Tim Frank's "Mary did you know?". We all agree that it doesn't feel like Christmas until Ron Mills sings "Oh Holy Night." We look forward to the tradition of singing "Silent Night" and our girls and their children reminisce about the "right of passage" when you were deemed old enough to hold your own real candle.

We look forward to December in the church and celebrating the birth of Jesus. We cherish our memories, look forward to our traditions and we feel blessed by the holidays we are able to spend together. As the lights dim, the candles are lit and the notes of "Silent Night" play again this year, I will once again look forward to the heartfelt emotion of looking down the pew full of the generations of our family.

Blessings for a happy Christmas from our family to yours.
Jackie and Lindell Petersen



Meals on Wheels Advance Notice

February is the first of two months in 2012 when Grace UMC will deliver Meals on Wheels. Please mark your calendars and watch for the sign-up calendar in the Narthex. The earlier you sign up the better the chance of getting the day(s) you prefer.

Thank you,
Missions Committee

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 11



Worship with us
at 9:30 AM.

All are welcome!

Grace Church Pictorial Directory UPDATE

We have finished taking photos for our pictorial directory and all materials to complete the directory should be in to Life Touch this week so they can begin the process of making up our directory. It is our hope to have the directories by Christmas, but that is tentative. This is a very busy time of year for Life Touch. So we will patiently wait and let you know as soon as we have any definite information. Remember if you had your picture taken for the directory, you are entitled to a FREE directory. If you did not have your picture taken, but wish a copy, the cost is \$15.

We would like to shout out a BIG thank you to all the members/friends of Grace who took time out of their busy schedule to get their pictures taken. We tried to choose times during a couple of months that would accommodate everyone as much as possible, but we knew we probably wouldn't catch everyone. We would also like to thank the people who took their precious time to attempt to reach by phone all members and friends of Grace who didn't make an appointment with our appointment team, to offer them a time to get their pictures taken. Helpers with this were: Juanita Hicks, Nancy Patrick, Sonja Wimmer, Carol Fisher, Phyllis Sitter, Nicolle Steele, Linda Abrahamson, Paula Harris, Joan Waller, Brad Johnson, Harriet Berger, Sue Burdick and Nora Biegler. Our appointment team consisted of: Dorothy DeGroot, Harriet Berger, Sandy Heerd, Jane Ingledue, Judith Olson, and Kay Darnell.

An essential group of Grace people welcomed folks as they came to get their pictures taken. A listing of those individuals was printed in the November newsletter, but we want to say a big thank you to Jane Ingledue for securing these greeters for both the summer and fall sessions.

Dale and Kay Darnell did a great job of contacting and photographing all the care facility people who agreed to participate, as well as some home bound members who did not feel it was possible to get to the church to have their picture taken. They spent a lot of time and drove several miles to accomplish this, so we owe them a big THANK YOU.

We thank those who helped in the layout of the activity pages. A special thanks to Paul Rausch, Judith Olson and Linda Bress.

Finally, a Big Thank You to the Directory Committee who consisted of: Harriet Berger, Kay Clancy and Nora Biegler. They spent many hours getting the directory done.



Give the Gift of Yourself to Help Others!

In this Season of Giving I am asking you to think of Giving of Yourself in one of the ministries at Grace Church. Our Hospital Visitation Team is led by Pastor Chuck and Pastor Travis but we have several lay persons on the team who visit on a scheduled basis as they have time. This is a very fulfilling ministry and if you are interested, please call the church office (262-5970) or Judy K. Olson (262-8773). We will be happy to see that you are trained properly.

Another way to volunteer is to deliver the Sunday Grace Church bulletins to the care centers. We appreciate Lois Adams and Siri and Andrew Christy who have given of their time to deliver the bulletins. At this time Phyllis Sitter is delivering to Longhouse and Northshire residents and Jean Rowe has volunteered to take the bulletins to the St. Luke campus. We could use one or two others who would volunteer as needed for this ministry.

In a recent video clip during worship you may have heard, "God calls the unqualified and He qualifies the called." Listen for His voice to be calling you to step up and Give a Gift of Yourself to Help Others. May Your Season of Giving be Filled with Joy and Blessings!

Judy K. Olson, Grace Church Volunteer

Grace United Methodist Church

Administrative Council -
October 25, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.

Mission Statement:

Grace United Methodist Church is a fellowship of believers committed to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. As we are empowered by the Holy Spirit, we will witness to the Christian message of salvation and minister to the needs of Grace Church and the larger community.

Attendance: Judith Olson, Kay Darnell, Mavis Olson, Richard Ortman, Carla Swank, Bill Elliott, Claudia Neary, Pastor Chuck Kellogg

Welcome: Judith Olson thanked everyone for their attendance. **Opening Prayer:** Pastor Kellogg gave prayer after lifting up the names of several members.

Approval of Minutes/Roll Call

Motion by Carla Swank; seconded by Mavis Olson. Carried.

Business Action Items

a. Finance and SPRC approved recommendations to hold pastoral salaries steady to help cover increases in insurance rates.

Motion to approve above action made by Carla Swank; seconded by Mavis Olson. Carried.

Other Business Items

a. Foundation Disbursement Report (items paid since September 2011)
2010/2011 (2009 & 2010 Interest approved for disbursement in 2010 & 2011)

· **Missions Allocations**

PET Tool Kits (United Methodist Men).....\$8.79

PET Tool Kits (United Methodist Men).....\$850.00

2 Projectors (General Use).....\$1,483.89

Okoboji Methodist Camp (Maintenance).....\$500.00

· **Outreach & Emerging Ministry**

The Table Outreach (Daily Reporter – advertising).....\$61.20

Grace Caring Fund..... \$150.00

· **Educational Opportunities**

Outreach Events (Child Evangelism Fellowship – VBS Donation – Faith Dewey)

..... \$300.00

b. 2011 Charge Conference – Sunday, November 13, 2011 (6:00 p.m.) Spencer Grace
(Spencer Grace, Fostoria, Everly-Royal, Langdon)

c. Form A – Charge Conference (Discussion to follow Committee/Staff Reports)

Committee/Staff Reports

Evangelism – Sandy Heerdt (submitted) – The committee met on Thursday, October 13, at 5:00 p.m., with 3 members and Pastor Travis present. Two events are in the making: (1) A mission/evangelical outreach for Thanksgiving. Congregants will be given the opportunity to provide Thanksgiving food items in roasters for anyone they feel could use a boost. There will be a display sample in the Narthex and an insert in the church bulletin to guide those who would like to participate. The Care Basket fund will provide gift certificates of about \$15 to cover the cost of a turkey or ham to go in each roaster.

(2) Evangelism hopes to get several small groups to participate in a 6-week Advent study using the book "*Christmas is not Your Birthday*" by Methodist Pastor Mike Slaughter. Five books have been ordered for use as a display and for existing groups/committees to share for possible sign-ups. This study will begin as soon as the books come in (November 20th or November 27th) and end December 18th. They are hoping/praying that leaders will step up to facilitate many small groups.

(This report included information that will be added to the forms needed for Charge Conference.)

UMM – Roger Ingledue (submitted) – Grace United Methodist Men served as waiters during the UMW Spiritual Bazaar Luncheon on Friday, October 7, 2011.

The next meeting of Grace United Methodist Men is scheduled for Saturday, October 29, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. The program will be presented by Richard Hildebrandt, Director of the area Habitat for Humanity Organization. Richard will share his experiences on the mission trip he took to Haiti after the devastating earthquake that country experienced.

The Annual United Methodist Men Potato Dinner Fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday, October 30, 2011 from 10:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Preparations are well underway for this event.

All men are welcome to participate in the ministry of United Methodist Men and to enjoy fellowship, a delicious breakfast, devotions, as well as participation in our programs and service projects.

Lay Leader – Roger Ingledue (submitted) – The Lay Leadership Committee met on Tuesday, September 29, on Sunday, October 9, 2011, and on Sunday, October 16, 2011 under the direction of Pastor Kellogg. The committee continues to identify and contact prospective candidates for nomination to fill vacancies within the various primary and secondary committees of Grace United Methodist Church. The Lay Leadership Committee, consisting of Pastor Kellogg, Dennis DeWitt, Roger Ingledue, Bronwyn (Brownie) Small, Kevin Tlam, and Dwayne Nehring have made significant progress in contacting members of our congregation to provide this opportunity to serve the church with their time and talents.

The Lay Leader has been meeting with Pastor Stevick for sharing, support, and discussion and has met in a casual setting with both Pastor Stevick and Certified Lay Speaker Dennis DeWitt to discuss the value and opportunity of contemporary worship styles and models. Pastor Stevick is well versed in various styles of contemporary worship and is providing us leadership in beginning dialogue on this subject.

Lay Speaker – Dennis DeWitt (submitted) – On Sunday, October 30, he is leading worship service at the Aurelia UMC. Message title is "The 'me' I'm meant to be." Sunday, November 13th, he is at the Estherville UMC worship service. The new nativity set is here. This is a \$1,600 memorial gift from Shirley Kooker in memory of Earl. Trustees approved this purchase at their meeting this week. Work is in progress for a Prayer Encounter Weekend.

Missions – Bill Elliott – Missions Committee met twice in October. The committee felt it needed more time to go over planning of meeting, methods used in conducting the meeting, and 2012 goals. Financial activity records for the past few years were reviewed and discussed. Members of the committee, with the help of Marv Umbrell, participated in St. Luke Roundup on Oct. 16. Grace UMC will deliver Meals on Wheels in February and in December of 2012. A mission trip to The Banquet in Sioux Falls, SD is planned for summer 2012; they are working with Pastor Travis to get youth involved in this trip. Their next scheduled meeting is November 1 at 5:30 p.m.

SPRC – Rich Ortman – Their meeting time was used to work on Charge Conference Form B.

Finance – Carla Swank – Printed handouts of Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual YTD and of Bank/Liability Balances were distributed. Carla reported that revenues are coming in right on target and everyone is holding expenses under budget. The committee is working on budgets; a payment has been made to apportionments.

UMW – Mavis Olson – The Spiritual Bazaar, which was held on Thursday, October 2, was well attended. Guest speaker, Bishop Deb Lieder Kiesey, had a great message, which was well received. The November meeting will be planning for 2012. A special meeting is planned for December.

Pastor Chuck Kellogg – Pastor Chuck is preparing information for Charge Conference.

Other Items – Judith Olson distributed the Church Remittance Statement from the Conference website and the agenda for Charge Conference 2011. Discussion was held and input obtained for filling out Form A for Charge Conference. Judith Olson read the Upper Room devotional for this date.

Next Meeting – November 29, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

Motion to approve date change was made by Claudia Neary; seconded by Bill Elliott. Carried

Motion to adjourn was made by Rich Ortman; seconded by Carla Swank. Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Closing Prayer – Judith Olson requested a group prayer, with each member adding their prayer as we joined hands around the table.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Darnell, Secretary





Grace Church Office will be closed on Monday, December 26 & Monday, January 1.

FREE!



**Tuesdays & Thursdays
@ 7:15 PM
Fellowship Hall**

We will workout together, be supportive of each other and come closer as sisters in Christ.

All sizes welcome!

For more information please contact :
Kristin Schwenneker or Carla Swank

Find us on Facebook.com



*A
Season
to
Rejoice*

Festival of Lessons and Carols

The Festival of Lessons and Carols will be present at Sacred Heart Catholic Church Sunday, December 4, 2011 at 3:00 PM.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols tells the Christmas story through scripture and music. Every church in Spencer is invited to be in the program. This is a great ecumenical Christmas service held in our community, which everyone can enjoy.

You are invited to attend . Please encourage others to come.



Children's Christmas Program

**Sunday, December 18
10:45 AM**

All are welcome to join us!



**Children's
Christmas Program**

Save the date!

January 29th

Celebration Sunday

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PHONE (712)262-5970 - FAX (712)262-0344
SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 AM- NURSERY AVAILABLE

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.SPENCERGUMC.COM

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Spencer, Iowa 51301


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SPENCER, IA. 51301
PERMIT NO. 145

Rev. Chuck Kellogg- Sr. Pastor
chuck.kellogg@spencergumc.com
Rev. Travis Stevick- Associate Pastor
tstevick@spencergumc.com

Return Service Requested

Custodian: Bob Dirks
Assistant Custodian: Mary Nepl
Administrative Secretary: Kay Clancy
Secretary: Linda Bress
Organist: Gretchen Hagedorn
Pianist: Teresa Ortman
Choir Director: Nancy Patrick
Joyful Ringers Director: Judi Calhoon
Administrative Council: Judith Olson
Treasurer: Claudia Neary



 GUMC Education & GracErsizE

FREE

Nativity Collections

Saturday, December 10



2:00 PM to 5:00 PM - Fellowship Hall

We welcome you to join us for an open walk through of Nativity sets from various owners of Spencer. We will have coffee, hot chocolate and cookies to enjoy.

Everyone is welcome!

Please contact the church office (262-5970) if you have a nativity collection you would like to share in this event. We ask you to sign up for table space as soon as possible so we can get the details worked out. Thank you for sharing your collections. We are also looking for donations of cookies for this event. If you are interested in helping please let the office know.

~Sandy Heerdt, Evangelism Chairperson